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DAY ONE!

Millions Say No to a Sexual Predator-in-Chief

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What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
  - Have fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. ***Pregnancy Registry:*** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.

Have you heard about

TRUVADA for **PrEP**™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

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House Dems Elect Moss, Zemke as Caucus Whip, Chair

Caucus to Focus on Unity and Inclusivity in 2017-18 Legislative Session

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING –The House Democrats held elections to fill their caucus's leadership positions for the next two years as a new session begins this week. State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) was elected to serve as the House Democratic Caucus Whip and state Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) was chosen to be the House Democratic Caucus Chair.

"I am extremely honored that my Democratic colleagues in the House chose me to serve as their Caucus Whip for this legislative session," said Rep. Moss. "The next two years presents many unknown factors as a result of new Republican leadership in the Michigan House of Representatives that will push an agenda that is more conservative and is out-of-touch with most people in Michigan. I'll be seeking opportunities to bring our caucus together on bipartisan policies that will hold our government accountable, while steadfastly advocating for progressive causes that will have a meaningful impact on the lives of Michigan residents."

Rep. Moss is serving his second term representing Michigan's 35th House District. In his first term, he served as the Democratic vice chairman of the House Local Government Committee and as assistant Democratic Floor Leader. Before joining the Legislature, Rep. Moss was the youngest-ever member to serve on the Southfield City Council. He earned his bachelor's degree in journalism with an additional major in political science from Michigan State University, where he graduated with high honors.

Rep. Zemke is serving his third term representing Michigan's 55th House District. Previously, he served as the Democratic vice chair of the House Education Committee and sat on the House Appropriations Committee. Before coming to the Legislature, Rep. Zemke worked as an engineer in the aerospace, defense and automotive fields. He serves on the Foundation Board for the Society of Automotive Engineers, and has served on the city of Ann Arbor's Housing and Human Services Advisory Board and the Washtenaw County Community Action Board. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the College of Engineering at Michigan State University.

"In a time when it may seem that there is more that divides us than unites us, I am ready to bring the House Democratic Caucus together to remember why it is we all came to Lansing in the first place," said Rep. Zemke. "Michigan's working families, seniors and students depend on us to provide better paying jobs, to maintain the stability of their retirement and to improve the affordability of their education. I look forward to uniting the caucus in these next two years to fight as one for Michiganders everywhere."

State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield)

State Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor)

Reps. Moss and Zemke join the House Democratic leadership team headed by the House Democratic Leader, state Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) and House Democratic Floor Leader state Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills). They will hold these positions for the duration of the 2017-18 legislative session.

> *"I'll be seeking opportunities to bring our caucus together on bipartisan policies that will hold our government accountable, while steadfastly advocating for progressive causes that will have a meaningful impact on the lives of Michigan residents."*
>
> - State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield)

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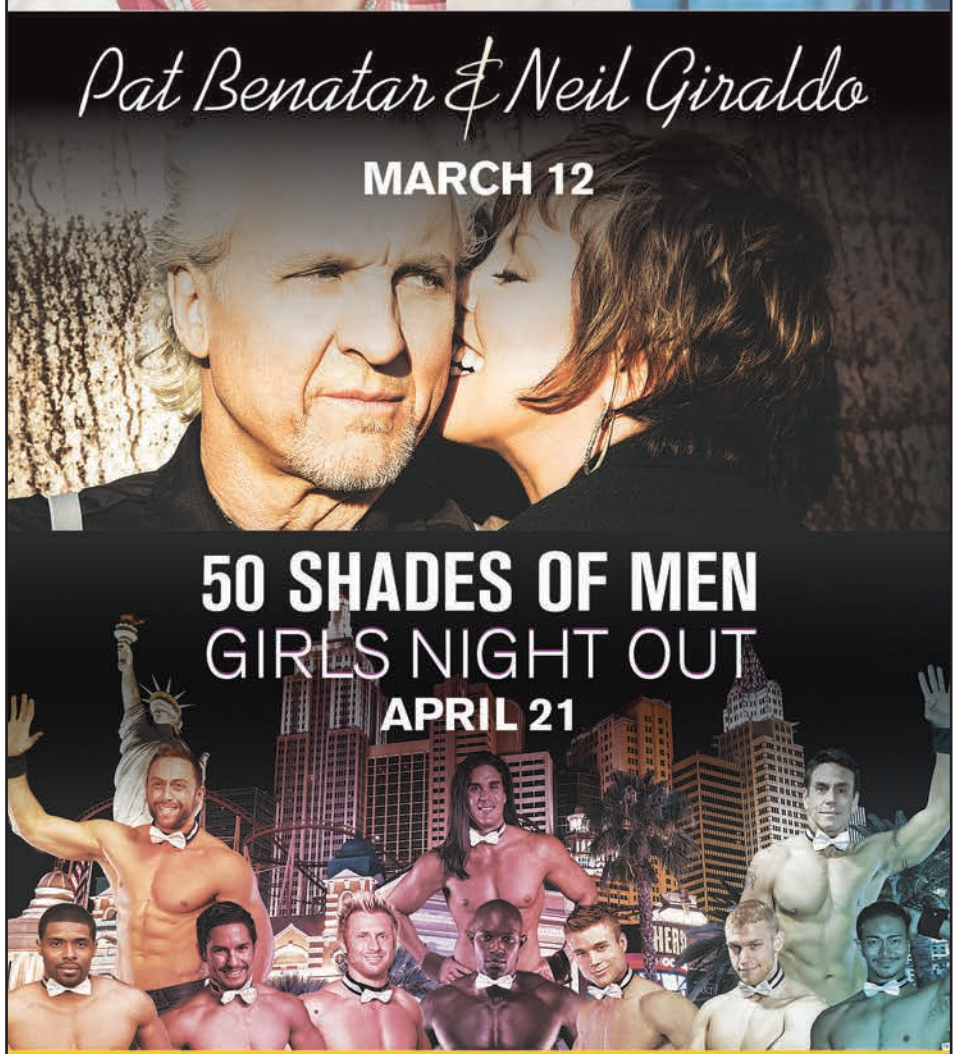

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Photo from dome of state capitol building courtesy of House Democratic Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing)

Women's March in Lansing Joins 600 Other Communities Worldwide Jan. 21

From Ann Arbor to Saugatuck the State Came Out in Record Numbers

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

As a million women, men and children marched in the nation's capitol Jan. 21,, a crowd estimated at 12,000 was rallying in Lansing to challenge not only the Trump presidency, but the ongoing assault on progressive values led by a GOP controlled legislature, executive branch and judiciary in the state. Lansing joined cities small and large across the globe.

Sarah Eisenberg, one of the Lansing event organizers, was seeking ways to engage her fears and frustrations right after the election. "Hey," she recalled saying to various groups, "I am an individual who's terrified about what's just happened; what can I do?" Initially there were few answers for her, but through social media she connected with others and helped plan the statewide rally the day after the inauguration.

And those of like mind showed up -- protest signs in tow and pink pussy hats affixed on heads, regardless of gender, despite the temperature near 70 degrees. They filled the Capitol lawn. And the supporters kept coming. They spilled out onto Capitol Avenue, the street that runs along the east side of the capitol where the rally was being held. Lansing Police closed the street to through traffic about an hour into the event and called in more officers.

They came to hear speakers like former state Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, who has announced she is seeking the Democratic nomination for governor in 2018. Former state Rep. Lisa Brown, who now serves as the county clerk in Oakland county and was Mark Schauer's Lt. Gov. choice in the 2014 gubernatorial race, was also present. She was silenced by the GOP leadership for daring to usher the word "vagina" during a floor debate on abortion.

"Mr Speaker, I'm flattered that you're all so interested in my vagina, but 'no' means 'no,'" she said at the conclusion of her speech on the floor of the state house in 2012. She was soon joined in the legislative penalty box by former state Rep. Barb Byrum. Byrum, who is now clerk in Ingham County. Byrum dared to propose a vasectomy ban. She too addressed the crowd on Saturday.

"This is only the beginning of what I expect will be many protests against President Trump and his administration," Byrum told Between The Lines in a Facebook interview Monday. "We re individuals who will have watchful eyes on his policies, will make our voices heard and stand up when our rights and safety is called into question."

She called the opportunity to address the rally "a privilege."

Photo of Lansing March by Todd Heywood.

11,000 people in Ann Arbor

Janet Osborn of Ann Arbor, 65, recalled protesting in 1963 with her mother in support of Selma during the civil rights movement. Now more than 50 years later, she's still marching. "Most of what's being said on the signs have been said my entire life," she said. "When I was 20, I would not have thought these would still be issues."

Meanwhile, Lindsay Duke, 34, also of Ann Arbor, said she "felt paralyzed" by everything going on in the country. "I didn't know what else to do, so I decided to be on my feet and keep moving with everybody," she described while waving a sign that listed what she was in support of: tolerance, love, water, black lives and more.

- Ashley Zlatopolsky, Special to the Detroit Free Press

12,000 people in Lansing

Dr. Farha Abbasi adopted a fiery tone as she addressed the crowd.

"My fellow peacemakers and my sisters, they say a political storm is brewing," she said. "I say the storm is already here. We are the storm."

Abbasi, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Michigan State University and member of the Michigan Muslim Council, called on Trump to "be my president" and uphold the rights granted in the U.S. Constitution.

"I am America," she said. "You do not pull my hijab, doubt my patriotism, question my loyalty, degrade my turban, dehumanize my disability, kill my youth, incarcerate my future.

"Do not silence my voices and take away my choices," she continued, before donning a pink knit "pussycat" hat. "And especially, you do not grab – anything."

- Reporter Christopher Haxel, Lansing State Journal

Detroit

Wayne State Police Chief Anthony Holt said the crowd was "well over 4,000," more than four times what officials had expected.

Lisa Nguyen, 24, of Sterling Heights came with her friend to let their voices be among those sending a message to the nation's capitol.

"Women rights are one of the more important things in life that I fight for," said Nguyen. "It's important women have access to birth control, abortion and other things that clinics like Planned Parenthood provide."

Nguyen said "with (Donald Trump) being in office is almost ...surreal . It just makes me feel like almost demeaned because he is racist and sexist and homophobic and he does not entail what America means.

- Reporter Oralandar Brand-Williams Detroit News

Traverse City

Around 3,000 people

Susette Wilson, of Manistee, attended the march with a group of friends. Marching was a way to stand for the social progress she said Americans made in recent years in LGBT rights, reproductive rights and environmental awareness.

"I feel like there's no other way but a peaceful approach, to show love, not hate," she said.

Reporter Carol Thompson Traverse City Record Eagle

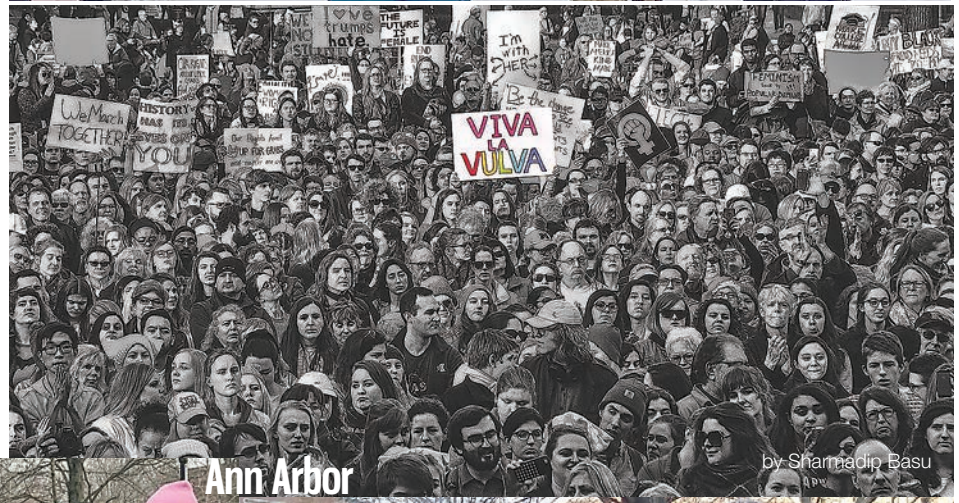
Saugatuck-Douglas

Several thousand people turned out for this march. Probably 2-3 times actual populations of these small West Michigan towns in a very conservative area.

Jodee Hunt posted "I was blown away by the crowd, uplifted by our walk, and bolstered by the many honks of support from passing vehicles. It was amazing!!"

Patty Wolfston-Hawco posted "This was a wonderful event. Proud and happy I could be a part of this historic march! Love my community!"

- News and Guts Facebook page



by Alex Steele

by Maggie Cocco

by Maggie Cocco

Trump Era Begins with Women's Marches as Backdrop

BY LISA KEEN

Trump was obsessed with news media comparisons of crowd size between his Inauguration and President Obama's in 2009. He complained on Twitter and at a speech in front off the CIA on Saturday, while the DC Women's March was happening. The attendance at the March was believed to be three times that of the Inauguration the day before.

In LGBT-specific terms, President Donald Trump's inaugural address was not much different than the first inaugural address of President Barack Obama. Neither said anything about LGBT people. Neither first inauguration included an openly LGBT person on the program. And both inaugural events gave public platforms to clergy with well-established hostilities toward LGBT equality.

Both first-term presidents also solicited input from the LGBT community through their transition teams. That was not a surprise coming from President Obama. He had included LGBT people in a large number of the activities leading up to his inauguration, had LGBT leaders actually meet with transition leaders, and had already appointed a lesbian as chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Trump's overtures to the LGBT community during the presidential campaign - including calls for Americans to stand in "solidarity" with LGBT people – had not translated into a working relationship with community leaders. He had the support of individual gay Republicans, but the national gay Republican group, Log Cabin Republicans, withheld any endorsement in the race. And Trump's frequent pledges to repeal many of President Obama's executive orders - along with his nominations to key administration posts of people with anti-LGBT records – has many LGBT people braced for the possibility he will reverse some or all of those pro-LGBT orders.

So it was a promising development when the Trump transition team reached out to Log Cabin Republicans.

According to Log Cabin national President Gregory Angelo, the "Trump Transition Team's Office of National Engagement invited us to draft and submit the white paper on the LGBT Non-Discrimination Executive Order." Angelo said the group also provided the paper to "members of the Transition Team specifically tasked with economic policy and executive order review."

"Their request that we draft this document sends a strong signal that President Trump's campaign promise to be a 'real friend' of the LGBT community was genuine," said Angelo in a press release Jan. 18.

Log Cabin said that "preserving the LGBT Non-Discrimination Executive Order would prove" Trump to be such a friend. At a press briefing Monday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer was asked about that white paper. He said he did not have any information about plans concerning LGBT-related executive orders.

The Log Cabin press release said the paper presented the "common-sense conservative case for LGBT non-discrimination in federal contractors to the Trump Transition Team." The paper, created with a pro-LGBT public education group called Liberty Education Forum, notes that the last Republican president, George W. Bush, left undisturbed the original executive order prohibiting discrimination against federal employees based on sexual orientation. It noted candidate Trump's expressed support for the LGBT community.

So far, none of the several executive orders that President Trump has signed in his first days in office has sought to reverse the pro-LGBT executive orders. And his confirmed appointee for Defense Secretary, General James Mattis, said at his confirmation hearing that he had no plans to try and reverse existing law that allows gays to serve openly in the military. However, Trump did sign an executive order to give states and federal agencies considerable leeway to undermine the Affordable Care Act, a law that has been strongly supported by the LGBT community. And on Monday, he signed an executive order to block non-governmental organizations receiving federal funds from providing information about obtaining abortions.

Mixed Bag in First Days

Other Trump administration news of special interest to the LGBT community has also been a mixed bag:

• Trump's inaugural address urged the country to stand "united" and "pursue solidarity." He promised action for the "forgotten men and women" but identified them as people who "came by the tens of millions to become part of a historic movement the likes of which the world has never seen before." He promised to help inner city families in poverty, abandoned factories, uneducated students, and victims of "crime and gangs and drugs."

"We are one nation - and their pain is our pain," said Trump. "Their dreams are our dreams; and their success will be our success. We share one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny. The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans."

President Obama's second inaugural address paid homage to the LGBT civil rights movement and called for a nation in which "our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law."

• The only mention of "sexual orientation" or "gender identity" during the inaugural program itself was from Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), Minority Leader of the Senate. "Whatever our race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity; whether we are immigrant or native-born; whether we live with disabilities or do not; in wealth or in poverty; we are all exceptional in our commonly held yet fierce devotion to our country," said Schumer. According to a number of media reports on site, those remarks were received with booing from the inaugural audience.

• LGBT content on the White House website was wiped off within minutes of Trump's taking the oath of office, along with content concerning civil rights and climate change. A section on the Department of Labor's website concerning "Advancing LGBTQ Workplace Rights" was also removed.

"If President Trump truly believes in uniting the country, now is the time to make clear whether he will be an ally to the LGBTQ community in our struggle for full equality," said Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin. Griffin urged Trump to reinstate the missing pages but added, "We are prepared to do whatever it takes to protect our community and our progress."

• Two gay Congressmen boycotted the inaugural. Reps. Mark Pocan of Wisconsin and Mark Takano of California were among 67 members of Congress who declined to attend Trump's inauguration. Pocan said he decided not to go after reading a classified document about Russian hacking of the presidential campaign and seeing Trump's "offensive" Twitter posts against civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis of Georgia. Takano cited Trump's Twitter posts against Lewis, too.

• Rev. Robert Jeffress, who told Fox News that allowing same-sex couples to marry "opens up a Pandora's box of societal-wide chaos" and leads to an "open season on

See Trump, page 28

Betsy DeVos Won't Get a Second Confirmation Hearing

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The Senate committee chairman on Jan. 23 rejected a formal request from Democrats for a second hearing to question west Michigan businesswoman and education secretary nominee Betsy DeVos about her complex financial holdings ahead of a committee vote Jan. 31, according to a Detroit News report.

The request from committee Democrats came after DeVos, a billionaire from the Grand Rapids area, finalized her financial disclosure statement and signed an agreement with the Office of Government Ethics late last week explaining her intention to divest within 90 days from 102 companies and holdings that pose potential conflicts of interest.

Washington State Sen. Patty Murray, the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions, said Democrats particularly wanted to ask about companies DeVos would continue to own that are "directly impacted" by the U.S. Department of Education and the Trump administration's education agenda.

In response to a letter Murray and other Democrats wrote to committee chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee), a committee aide said Alexander will not hold a second hearing on DeVos' nomination.

The chairman has said it's "absolute nonsense" to say there wasn't enough time to ask questions, citing the access that senators have had to DeVos, including private meetings with each committee member. Alexander says DeVos' 3 1/2-hour hearing went 1 1/2 hours longer than the hearings for either education secretary nominated by former President Barack Obama. DeVos is also answering 837 written questions submitted by committee Democrats, compared with 81 questions combined that Republicans submitted in writing to Obama's two secretaries of education.

Following her Jan. 17 Senate confirmation hearing, reports say DeVos "was stumped," "she got schooled," "she wasn't prepared," and "it was an insult to Democracy."

While the nominee for U.S. Secretary of Education addressed topics such as charter schools, college affordability, campus sexual assault and federal compliance, national organizations say more time is needed to discuss what the future of education looks like for young people, specifically LGBTQ students.

"Today's confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos was not nearly long enough for the thorough discussion our children's education requires. Short as it was, it raised a lot of additional deeply troubling issues of grave concern to all parents. While we are relieved to hear DeVos rejecting the dangerous and thoroughly discredited practice of conversion therapy her family has previously supported, it was chilling to hear DeVos dodge questions about whether she would keep essential protections for transgender students, and basically refer all other civil rights protections for students with disabilities, students of color, and religious minority students 'back to the states,'" said GLSEN's Executive Director, Dr. Eliza Byard in a written response on Jan. 17.

DeVos is a prominent school-choice and anti-public education advocate.

"We've seen where that leads, and we know that all students require more protection if we are to be a country that provides meaningful opportunity to all children. There are too many questions still to be answered. Children's lives depend on it; the lives of LGBTQ youth depend on it. It is shameful to shut this hearing down before American parents have a chance to hear and understand what Betsy DeVos would do as our Secretary of Education."

Betsy DeVos

The latest edition of GLSEN's National School Climate Survey found that LGBTQ students who experienced discrimination, bullying and harassment at school were more than three times as likely to have missed school in the past month as those who did not, had lower GPAs, had lower self-esteem and higher levels of depression. {URL GLSEN http://www.glsen.org/} has created model laws and policies for schools, districts and states to ensure LGBTQ students are safe and affirmed at school, including a model district policy for accommodating transgender and gender nonconforming students that complies with Title IX.

"If this is all the hearing we're going to get, then we must oppose. Conversion therapy is not the only issue of concern for LGBTQ youth. LGBTQ youth come from many communities and have many identities – identities that U.S. civil rights law is designed to protect," said Byard.

Other civil rights and LGBTQ organizations agree. The government affairs director of the Human Rights Campaign , David Stacy said, "It's good that Betsy DeVos rejects the dangerous practice of conversion therapy and is distancing herself from extremist organizations that practice it. But will she protect LGBTQ young people and commit to keeping crucial protections in place for transgender students? That is a key, critical question and should be an easy answer. Does she reject Focus on the Family's call for the Department of Education to rescind guidance ensuring the safety of transgender students? Will she reject attempts by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty to have taxpayers foot the bill for discrimination against LGBTQ students and families? We still don't know those answers and we must. The next Secretary of Education deserves a thorough vetting and this drive-by hearing is inadequate and inexcusable."

Equality Michigan released a statement Jan. 17 in which the organization said it is "pleased" to hear DeVos state, "Every child in America deserves to be in a safe environment that is free from discrimination. If Ms. DeVos is confirmed as Secretary of Education, we look forward to working with her and her department to put those values into action in the form of policies that protect the safety of LGBT kids and ensure freedom from discrimination. Thankfully, there are many proven policies currently in place that should be maintained. We know from direct experience here in Michigan just how successful the policies of the Office of Civil Rights have been. Equality Michigan works with students, parents, and educators who rely on current nondiscrimination policies to keep kids in schools, focused on education, and healthy. These policies have literally saved students lives and we look forward to seeing them continued."

While EQMI is hopeful about DeVos' nomination, the concern remains that her statement avoids indicating whether or not she supports the rights of LGBTQ students specifically and also whether or not she would continue the policies of the Obama administration.

In an email response – posted on EQMI's Facebook page on Jan. 18 – to members of the local community that question EQMI's supportive statment of DeVos, the organization was clear that, "No, we aren't endorsing her and I doubt this aspect of her statement will make the difference on whether or not the Senate decides she's qualified. If she does get confirmed, then we will have to work with her to put her words into action."

Considering DeVos' noncommittal responses and her obvious hedging around actual policy stances during the hearing, that could be tough to work with.

What DeVos Did to Education in Michigan:

- An analysis by the Michigan Campaign Finance Network shows the DeVos family contributed $1.45 million over two months to Michigan GOP lawmakers and the state party by the end of July 2016 after the Republican-led Legislature derailed a bipartisan provision that would have provided more charter school oversight in Detroit.

- The DeVos family has given more than $2 million to the Great Lakes Education Project's Political Action Committee since 2001. GLEP has spent that money essentially buying policy outcomes that have helped Michigan's charter industry grow while shielding it from accountability. GLEP also pushed hard – and successfully – to lift the cap on charter schools a few years ago, even though Michigan already had among the highest number of charters in the nation despite statistics suggesting charters weren't substantively outperforming traditional public schools.

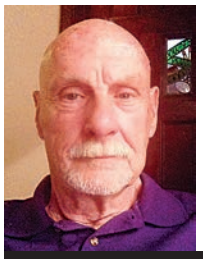
- In 2000, the DeVos extended family spent $5.6 million on an unsuccessful campaign to amend Michigan's constitution to allow school vouchers - the only choice tool not currently in play in the state.

Additional DeVos Background:

– DeVos' personal foundation has donated $275,000 to Focus on the Family, an organization that promotes, among other things, conversion therapy

– DeVos' personal foundation has donated $15,000 to the Becket Foundation, an organization that advocates for taxpayers funding discriminatory schools

– DeVos' personal foundation has donated $65,000 to the Thomas More Law Center, an organization that represented organizations that challenged the constitutionality of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.



Let's Show Our Woodies

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Woody Allen – who takes religion, God, get-saved theology with a grain of salt (Epsom, no doubt) quips, "I don't believe in an afterlife, although I am bringing a change of underwear."

(Woody adds, "I believe that there's somebody out there who watches over us. Unfortunately, it's the government." His recent Trump waste, er, waist size-up: "An entertainer who can't win.")

If a poll conducted by the First Amendment Center, a nonpartisan educational group, is an indication, there's a possibility that Woody's choice, at age 81 last month, of heavenly, wide-front briefs (assuming he's a wide fronter) might be red, white, blue striped.

According to FAC, Americans, by a 55 percent margin, have taken it into their collective salvation/sawdust trail heads that our nation's founders – mostly Deists, agnostics, Masons or, just as irreverent, High Church Anglicans – wrote Christianity into the Constitution.

If you bother to read it (who does?), the U.S. Constitution is non-theistic: the word God (or Jesus, Christ, Christianity, Bible or even Creator) does not appear in its wording.

The only mention of religion in its original seven articles is (VI) to proclaim "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust in the United States."

As reported by USA Today, Charles Haynes, a senior FAC scholar, says the poll findings are "particularly troubling." And oddly ironic. "Americans are dying to create a secular democracy in Iraq, and simultaneously a growing number of people want to see a Christian state here."

Rick Green, spokesperson for WallBuilders, an advocacy group for government built on biblical principals, says the poll doesn't mean that a majority favors a theocracy, but that the Constitution reflects Christian values, including religious freedom.

"I would call it a Christian document," says Green. (How about Mitt's Book of Mormon, which Mark Twain called "printed chloroform"?) Even so, "The scariest thing," says FAC's Haynes, "is that only 56 percent agree that freedom of religion applies to all groups, regardless of how extreme their beliefs are."

Reports USA Today, "More than one in four say constitutional protection of religion does not apply to 'extreme' groups." (MCC-Detroit? Dignity? Lutherans Concerned? Westboro Baptist?)

One more quote worth highlighting. From James Madison, our fourth president and time-honored Father of the Constitution: "Who does not see that same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other Religions, may establish with the same ease any particular sect of Christians, in exclusion of all other sects?"

God knows there are a few "in"sects buzzing about. Mormons. Jehovah's Witnesses. Seventh Day Adventists. Moonies. Biblical Reconstructionists. Christadephians. To mention only a few contenders in America's religious, spiritual turf (and tax-free monetary) wars.

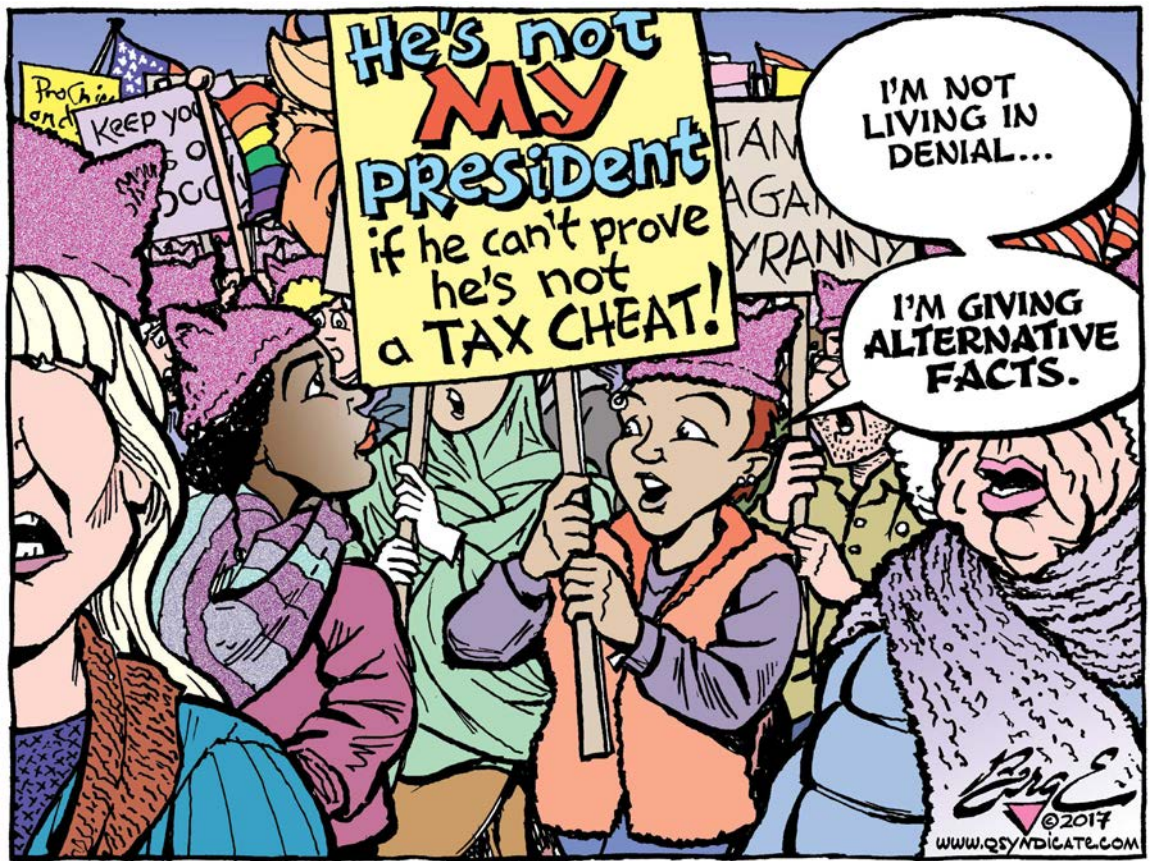
Make no mistake! There's a power struggle going on. The fundamentalist/evangelical coalition is out, "gentle as doves, sly as foxes", to make their beliefs the dominant billy goat on the family farm, with us "lost LGBT sheep" its major scapegoat.

If these right-wing believers are to survive they know gosh darn well that separation of church and state must go. Science, psychiatry, history, philosophy must take a backseat to their ad hoc Jesus and biblical mythology. There's no compromise in their Onward Christian Soldiers warmongering.

One last Allenism: "If it turns out that there is a God, I don't think he's evil. I think the worst you can say about him is that basically he's an underachiever."

Have a blessed day! (Give a fundygelical a Woody. Skid marks optional.)

Charles@pridesource.com


He's not MY President if he can't prove he's not a TAX CHEAT!
I'M NOT LIVING IN DENIAL...
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From the Co-Publisher

BY JAN STEVENSON

Women's March Unleashes an Unstoppable Movement

It was amazing, unexpected in size, thrilling and inspiring.

Susan and I dragged ourselves out of bed at 4:30 a.m. Friday - Inauguration Day - to catch a bus for the Women's March on Washington. Our group of 38 fellow travelers were quiet, some shy, mostly all in need of more coffee. During the 10-hour trip we got to know each other a little. As we drove east we learned about the protests and arrests in Washington during the inauguration, and apprehension crept onto some women's faces. Would it be dangerous? Would there be lots of people or a small crowd? Would this march make any difference?

Saturday morning we were back on the bus at 6 a.m. on our way to RFK Stadium, where over 1,800 other buses from all over America each spilled out dozens of women with pink {URL pussyhats https://www.pussyhatproject.com/}, signs, smiles and enthusiasm. We joined the massive crowd already forming at 8 a.m. on the two-and-a-half-mile walk to the National Mall. Women everywhere.

We passed the National Guard Armory and were cheered and applauded by khaki-clad soldiers. A few of the women in uniform wanted selfies with us. The police, security personnel - even the men driving the trash trucks – all honked and yelled support as we made our way forward. I called out "thank you!" to a burly, armed, shaved-head soldier, and he called back with a big grin, "Say hi to my mom – she's there too somewhere."

Washingtonians living along the route, many with young children in tow, waved and cheered as the thousands paraded past their front doors. I stepped into the street to look back and saw a sea of pink marchers, all moving in the same direction – toward the seats of power.

Our group of six friends got to the National Mall more than an hour before the rally was set to begin and already we couldn't get close enough to the stage to see or hear any of the speakers. We staked out a place near the edge of the crowd, but we were quickly surrounded by the masses of people still pouring in. "Let's move to the edge of the crowd," our friends said and we started north towards the other side of the Mall.

We never found the edge of the crowd – just continuous masses of people. Despite confusion and enormous crowding, the feeling was gentle, safe, supportive and playful. People smiled and made way for us as we moved through the growing sea of humanity. We finally got to the National Gallery steps on the north side of the Mall and there was a separate, gigantic march along the street. Susan thought this was

See next page

We climbed the steps of the National Gallery and turned around – our jaws dropped. With a panoramic view of the entire Mall, Susan and I looked at each other, stunned. Both of us veterans of numerous large marches in Washington – against the Vietnam War, for LGBT rights, for women's rights, against indifference to the AIDS pandemic – we'd never seen anything close to this!

the actual March starting, but we soon learned that all these people were just arriving. They hadn't even entered the Mall yet!

We climbed the steps of the National Gallery and turned around – our jaws dropped. With a panoramic view of the entire Mall, Susan and I looked at each other, stunned. Both of us veterans of numerous large marches in Washington – against the Vietnam War, for LGBT rights, for women's rights, against indifference to the AIDS pandemic – we'd never seen anything close to this! We watched in wonder as five different rivers of marchers make their ways east towards the White House. We went to the other side of the building and saw thousands more still just arriving to the Mall. By far, this was the largest demonstration of political resistance we had ever seen!

For hours we watched a continuous stream of human energy. We made it back to our bus - 8.3 miles later - and that night collapsed, exhausted but elated. Sunday morning we were back on the bus home. Our group of 38 women on the bus was transformed. Everyone was excited, chatting, sharing stories about their March experience – who they saw, how they felt, whether they made it to protest at the White House or the new Trump Hotel, or, like us, couldn't get through the logjam of marchers.

Everyone wanted to talk about what's next. Galvanized and energized, they wanted to know how to keep the pressure on the new administration and the Congress. I invited everyone to join Susan and I at the Michigan Democratic Convention Feb. 11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Cobo Hall in Detroit. All phones came out to update their calendars and I expect to see many of my new bus friends at the MDP convention next month. We created a Facebook page to stay in touch, we planned phone calls to legislators and we committed to stay vigilant.

The Women's March on Washington has mobilized a worldwide movement. Started by one woman in Hawaii the day after Trump's election who suggested on Facebook that women come to protest the inauguration, and millions responded. We've made our voices heard from cities large and small and from other nations around the world. We mobilized and we must commit to organize out of this moment.

Now comes the hard work. But if the reaction on our one bus of somewhat hesitant marchers is any indication of a newfound energy and commitment to progressive human rights, then there is reason to have high hopes for the future of this beautiful, colorful, diverse and expansive America on the horizon.

Our bus mates (l to r), Diane Northaft, Anita Marohnic, bus captain Marsha Sutfun, Kim Kern, BTL Publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz, traveling Friday, enroute to what would be an epic March on DC. It was a great way to spend Inauguration Day.

Creep of the Week

Mat Staver

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Note, too, that Staver's just assuming that the dead and wounded (at the Pulse nightclub) had AIDS. In other words, he sees the victims as diseased first, human second (if at all).

It's been months since Omar Mateen shot over 100 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, killing 49 people. Surely enough time has passed that we can stop mourning the dead and start worrying about the real victims of the attack: the first responders who had to wade through all that gross AIDS blood.

On Jan. 23, Liberty Council's Mat Staver took to his Faith and Freedom radio program to take the nightclub attendees to task for having the temerity to bleed once they were shot.

"In regards to the Pulse nightclub," Staver said, "as tragic as it is, some of these officers have no doubt gone through trauma as well because they were going through the Pulse nightclub, it was blood everywhere and, you know, they're having to get tested for AIDS-related conditions because they're literally walking in pools of blood."

Yes, walking through pools of blood no doubt barefoot and with open sores on their feet, per official emergency response protocol.

Look, there's no question that officers responding to the shooting have gone through trauma. It's got to be hard to enter a place of such carnage and literally see piles of dead bodies. I suspect that would mess up even the most seasoned veteran of the force.

But according to Staver, what should most concern officers is the disease ridden blood of the homos. Staver doesn't, of course, know this. What he's really telling us is that this is what would most concern him were he in their position.

Note, too, that he's just assuming that the dead and wounded had AIDS. In other words, he sees the victims as diseased first, human second (if at all).

Note that Staver prefaces his barbaric comment with "as tragic as it is," but it certainly seems like he doesn't think it was all that tragic.

During this same radio program, Staver and his guest go out of their way to state that the Pulse massacre had nothing to do with anti-LGBTQ animosity and everything to do with ISIS. The location was apparently chosen at random and it just so happened to be a club full of homos. Apparently Staver didn't get the memo that ISIS isn't exactly LGBTQ friendly.

"There was a narrative that the Obama administration and local politicians, including Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, wanted to promote and it was the rainbow flag, it was an anti-gay issue and it really was a terrorism issue."

Because, you know, it can't be both. And how dare Obama and Dyer use this tragedy to promote the crazy idea that there are some people out there who hate LGBTQ people enough to kill them and that LGBTQ deserve protection and compassion. That's a left-wing conspiracy if I ever heard one!

It's ironic that Staver, a man who has spent much of his professional life demonizing LGBTQ people as sub-human, can't imagine that some hate filled psycho would go out and murder a bunch of them.

This is a guy who, right after the shooting, lamented the fact that churches who helped out the victims were too nice to them.

"Churches got involved and they led in some cases and in other cases they followed and ... instead of an opportunity to pray, some of them allowed it to be a homosexual love fest," he said. "That's not something that we need to celebrate, this is a tragedy that is against all Americans."

Keep in mind that the "that" and "this" coming out of Staver's mouth refer not to the shooting, but to homosexuality, the real tragedy.

But hey, Trump promised to protect LGBTQ people from foreign ideologies, so I'm sure we'll all be okay.

Baptist Pastor Comes Under Fire for Officiating Same-Sex Wedding

Rev. Brian Ellison Pledges to Rebuild His Congregation with more Progressives

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It's not all that uncommon a story. Pastor leads a largely non-LGBT congregation. Pastor follows his heart and performs a same-sex wedding. Pastor then watches the backlash as he begins to lose members of his congregation in droves.

But let's go back to the beginning. Rev. Brian Ellison pastors a Baptist church on Detroit's northwest side called the Church of the New Covenant. He is also an attorney.

"My first love is the church," Ellison said. "I do a lot of domestic violence litigation and I see that as just an extension of my life as a pastor. I don't see myself as an ivory tower preacher. I see myself as a street guy. I love liberation theology and I think it's the most authentic expression of the gospel of Jesus Christ – that God has a preferential bias toward the poor and the oppressed."

Ellison, who has a master's in divinity from Virginia Union University's School of Theology in Richmond, VA, and a law degree from the Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, has pastored New Covenant for the past 14 years.

"Since I've been there I've always had this fundamentalist, Biblical literalist wing of my church," Ellison explained. "They're not bad people. They're not good people. They just exist and we've coexisted for 14 years pretty good. I don't want to say they're wicked people. I think they are misguided. I think they are wrong and I don't think you can justify reading the old testament as history recorded. If that's history recorded we should be afraid of God."

The coexistence became not quite so peaceful starting last spring, after Ellison was approached by two young ladies who attended his church. They stated their desire to be married and, further, they stated that they desired Ellison to marry them. The pastor agreed, he said, without hesitation.

Ellison felt the need to notify his head trustee of his plans and she insisted he bring the matter up before a meeting of the joint board of deacons and trustees. That meeting was attended by 17 church leaders and took place in June.

"I had two deacons and a trustee express outrage that I would do such a thing and they stated that I was condoning sin," Ellison remembered. "They challenged me. One of my deacons brought the Bible out and we had a little battle of the Bibles at that table that night. This one deacon said the Bible says that this is an abomination. I said the Bible is also pro-slavery; the Bible also assumes that the sun revolves around the Earth: the Bible also turns a blind eye toward rape; the Bible also assumes women are property and children are property; and the Bible endorses and calls for genocide. So be careful about quoting the Bible to me."

Bothered to be challenged on the subject, Ellison continued to make his case.

"I said, 'Deacon, there are 31,000 verses in the Bible. Six of them deal with homosexuality. I don't think God cares. God doesn't care about this subject. This is not a major subject of religion. You're making it that. You're majoring a minor.'"

Undeterred, Ellison proceeded with his plans to perform the November wedding.

"I did the wedding," Ellison said. "It was packed. The church seats about 350 and there were 375 people plus in the building. It was fun. It was electric. It was a joyous, joyous occasion. I was blessed and fortunate to have been the officiant at this wedding. Everything was positive. No criticism whatsoever."

But if Ellison thought the battle was over, he was soon to find out he was mistaken. Following the wedding, letters began circulating throughout the congregation. A few members of the church were determined that the entire congregation be made aware of what Ellison had done. They called it "an abomination before God" and accused the pastor of "bringing secular lifestyles into the church."

Meanwhile, another member of the church – a prominent and longtime member – sent out an email declaring her intentions to leave.

"She said she was leaving the church after decades," said Ellison. "She went on about how she could not follow me as a pastor and that I was a man who violated Biblical dictates. She said God would not approve of what I had done and that it was sacrilegious and blasphemous. The letter was crazy. I'm like, 'what the hell is her problem?' She circulated this throughout the church and it hurt me."

Helplessly, Ellison watched as members of his church continued to make their way out of its doors for good. Ellison, however, has not given up and is still planning to take the church in a more progressive direction regardless of the letter writer's efforts.

> *"I've said it many times, 10 percent of the congregation is LGBT and I'm not going to shame anybody for how they're born."*
>
> – Rev. Brian Ellison

"She was a leader in the church and she circulated the letter," said Ellison. "I'm not sure when the bleeding is going to stop but she has people's attention and I feel I needed to push back. If I have to repopulate this church with an entire congregation of LGBT people I'll do it. I am 100 percent opposed to the hypocrisy in the black protestant church.

"I've said it many times, 10 percent of the congregation is LGBT and I'm not going to shame anybody for how they're born," Ellison continued. "We accept our LGBT congregants money, they serve in every capacity and I'm not going to have a second-class citizenship in our church."

All Ellison had to do was promise never to perform another same-sex wedding in the church and the letter writer said she would stay and call off her campaign against the pastor.

"She said 'if you agree not to do this again I won't leave your church,'" Ellison said. "I laughed my ass off. I said 'I'm going to do it again. I'm not going to allow our LGBT members to live in the shadows of our church.'"

The Church of the New Covenant is located at 3426 Puritan Ave. in Detroit. Morning worship takes place at 11 a.m. on Sundays. For more information, visit http://cncbaptist.org.

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When the big day finally arrived, photographers at Rawlinson Photography in Plymouth reminded John and Michael to let them do the work and simply enjoy their celebration. Photo courtesy of Rawlinson Photography

Wedding Photography Trends to Watch Out for in 2017

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

As a photographer, it is always important to be in touch with the latest trends in photography. Wedding photography, much like the entire business of weddings, is highly influenced by the ebb and flow of trends. Here are a few of the trends, according to local wedding photographers and videographers, the wedding industry will see dominating 2017.

RESOURCES

To plan your perfect day, visit the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo website http://milgbtwedding.com. Join BTL on March 26 from 12-4 p.m. at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit where more than 100 LGBT-inclusive vendors are ready and willing to work with same-sex couples to make their celebrations the best possible.

First Looks

1. "First Looks are still gaining in popularity. Seeing your bride or groom before the ceremony, in a private moment between just the two of you. You're still freshly made-up, you don't have all your family and friends watching, and the pressure is off for the rest of the day," said Derek Cookson of Derek Cookson Photography in Royal Oak. "Since many ceremonies and receptions are being scheduled right after each other, it let's you get right to the party afterwards, since it also frees you up to take photos earlier before everything begins. Anything that makes the day less anxious is always a win."

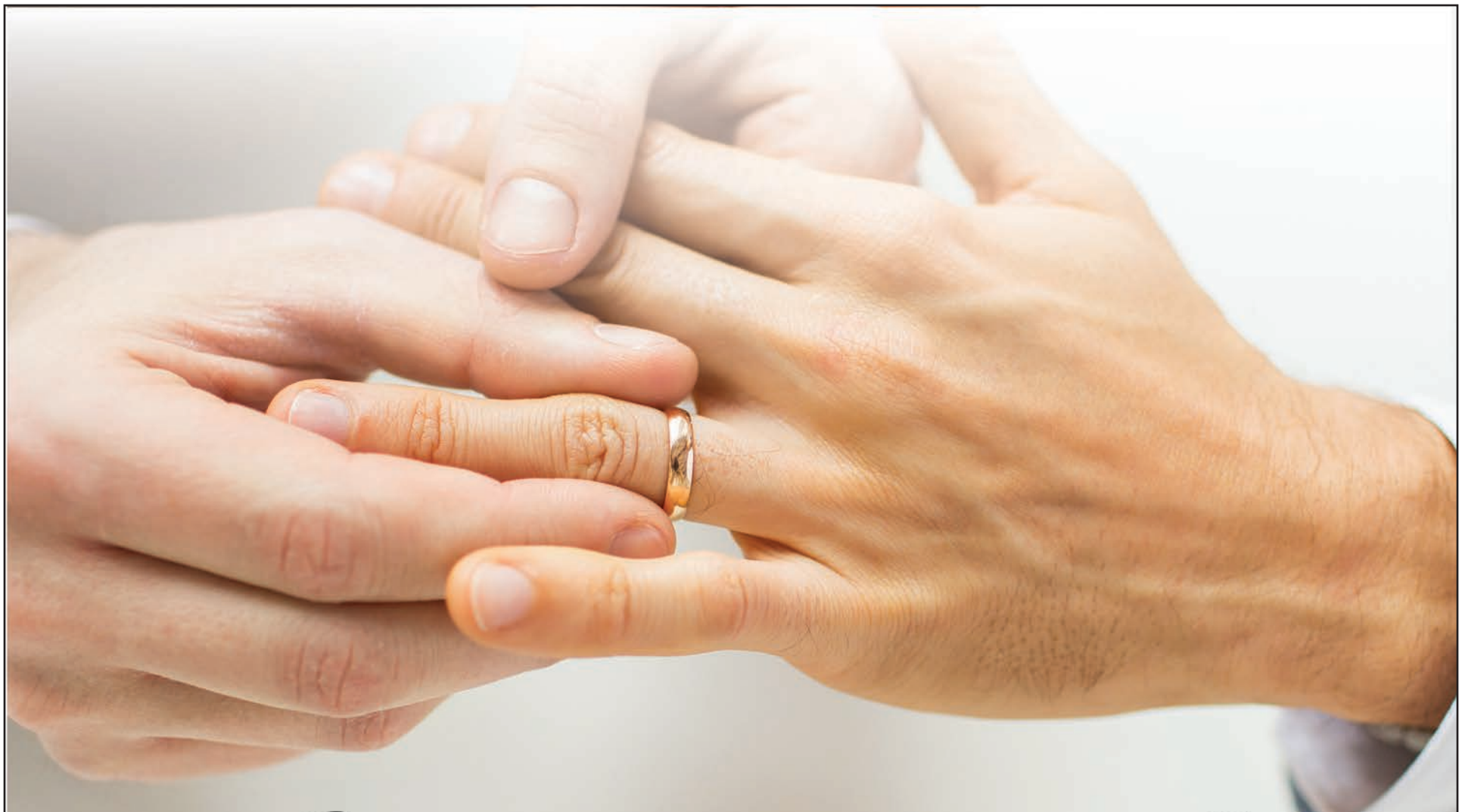
Drone Aerial Shots

One of the hottest trends that wedding and event photographer Kyle Martin of Modern Touch Media in Detroit sees coming on strong is the advent of the drone rage, not only for videographers, but also for still photographers. "Movement is huge. Drones allow you to add amazing production value, making videos come alive rather than focus on static poses or still shots which can be boring," said Martin. "Drones make it possible to capture the wedding landscape in its entirety and create wedding pictures or videos that were not previously possible." Martin and his crew are using unique camera tools to make his client's wedding videos look more like a film or a movie. "The highlight video - like four to eight minutes rather than 30 to 40 minutes - is what every bride and groom wants to share with friends," said Martin. "It's an easy way to show people your favorite moments in an artsy way online."

Unplugged Weddings

"Tell your guests to put their phones, cameras and tablets away to be present," Cookson said. "You love them enough to invite them to your special moment, and you paid for a professional to be there. They can watch the ceremony in glorious real-life-definition and your photographer or videographer gets better photos of you without the hundred glowing screens obstructing the view. Win-win."

See Photography, page 18



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► **Photography**
Continued from p. 16

Hire a Professional

Professional photographers, such as Steve Schwall and Kathy Mabbott of Rawlinson Photography in Plymouth, will be able to help guide you through what can be a very stressful day. They can be an encyclopedia of knowledge that you can tap into. An experienced professional will also have the knowledge and wherewithal to deal with any situation that arises, planned or unplanned.

Storytelling

Janice Milhem of Milhem Images, Inc. in Ann Arbor takes time to get to know her clients in an effort to create a story with images. "By meeting with them and making them feel comfortable, you can better understand their nuances, their hobbies, what they enjoy doing together and how they met," said Milhem, who looks at a couple's story in a visual way to capture through pictures exactly how they were feeling in that moment. She adds, "It's important to really understand their needs and ask a lot of questions. Make sure you are the right photographer for them and they are the right client for you. If you don't have the right match, you won't have a good product." Schwall and Mabbott agree that storytelling in the form of images is the best way to represent a couple, who they are and how they feel about each other. "Having some idea about what you want the final images to look like will go a long way to help your photographer tell your story," said Mabbott. "We are creating their first family heirloom together. It's important that it represents them."

Photographers Steve Schwall and Kathy Mabbott guided Giselle and Teresa through what can be a stressful day for two brides without an experienced professional. Photo courtesy of Rawlinson Photography

Hashtag Your Wedding

This is an opportunity to create your own way to capture everyone's personal photos of the big day. "If it isn't on Instagram, it didn't happen," said Cookson. "Brides and grooms are creating their own hashtags and are

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► Photography

Continued from p. 19

Rawlinson Photography has always actively supported the LGBT community, making Charles and Richard's wedding day extra special. Photo courtesy of Rawlinson Photograpy

Ron Napier and Andy Soya, one of the first same-sex couples married in the Michigan Supreme Court in the chambers of Justice Bridget Mary McCormack. Photo courtesy of Derek Cookson Photography

encouraging their guests to tag their photos when they post them online. The use of wedding hashtags allows the couple and those who couldn't attend to see all the candid moments that were taken on the special day and sometimes, candid moments are the best moments."

Instant Photo Booths

A popular add-on for Cookson's business is very vintage and personal (think old-school Polaroids) instant photos. Wedding guests have a blast with a table of props, taking turns in the photo booth. "The charm is the immediacy and the imperfections, you can write on them, and then stick them in a scrapbook for you to discover and look through after the wedding," said Cookson pointing to the creative and comical ways people make sweet, memorable photos, which are way more fun than just standing around a table and smiling.

When the big day finally arrives, Schwall and Mabbott remind couples to let the professionals do their work and

See Photography, page 20

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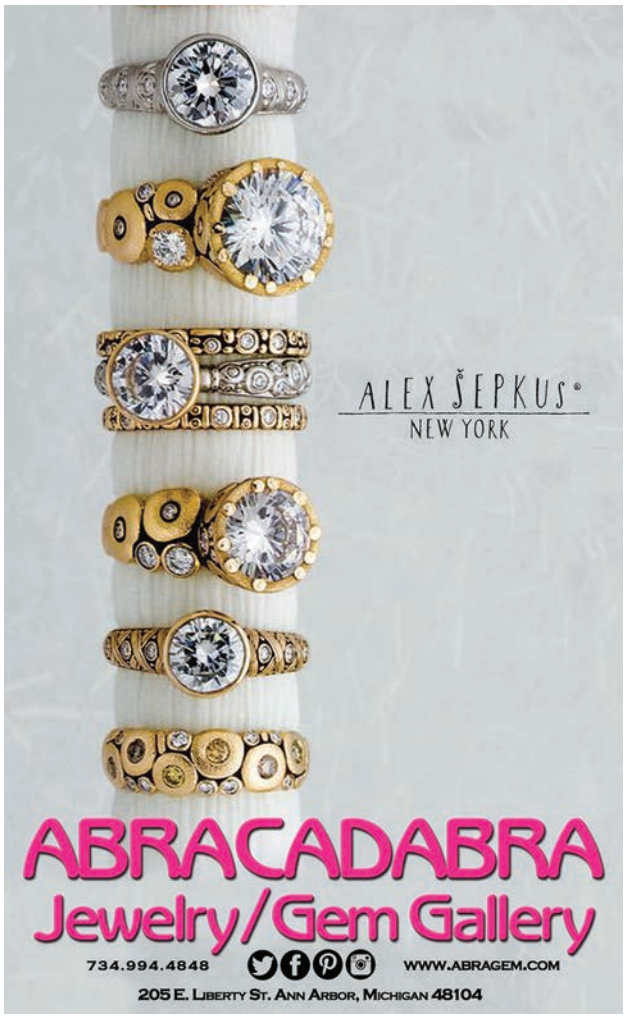

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► **Photograpy**
Continued from p. 19

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Find LGBTA friendly resources for all your event needs at: www.MiLGBTWedding.com a project of Between The Lines.

Garry and Robert are married in the Peninsula Room on the University of Michigan campus. Photo courtesy of Milhem Images, Inc.

simply enjoy the celebration. "If you ask anybody that was recently married they will all tell you how fast the day went. No wedding is perfect, things happen, deal with it then move on. It's about saying 'I do' to the love of your life, surrounded by the most important people in your world. Enjoy every minute of it. We will capture every laugh and every tear for you, so you can relive every moment for years to come," said Mabbott, who reiterates that Rawlinson Photography has always actively supported the LGBT community. "We have always said and will continue to say, 'Love is love it photographs the same.'"

As an artist behind the lens, Cookson said he is there to capture the story of the day, the moments couple's will want to remember forever.

"Since 'the ruling,' one thing I have treasured is how much more the LGBT community seems to appreciate the simple dignity to be able to declare their love for each other - being legally able to join their partner in marriage forever. It adds a layer of reverence and I can see the importance in my photos, the look of understanding how to not take something for granted," he said. "I've been lucky to be a part of so many more wonderful LGBT weddings than ever lately, and I could not be happier to welcome the memories I am privileged to be a part of. Love is love, especially in the eyes of a camera lens, and when there's more people getting married, it helps the entire industry grow."

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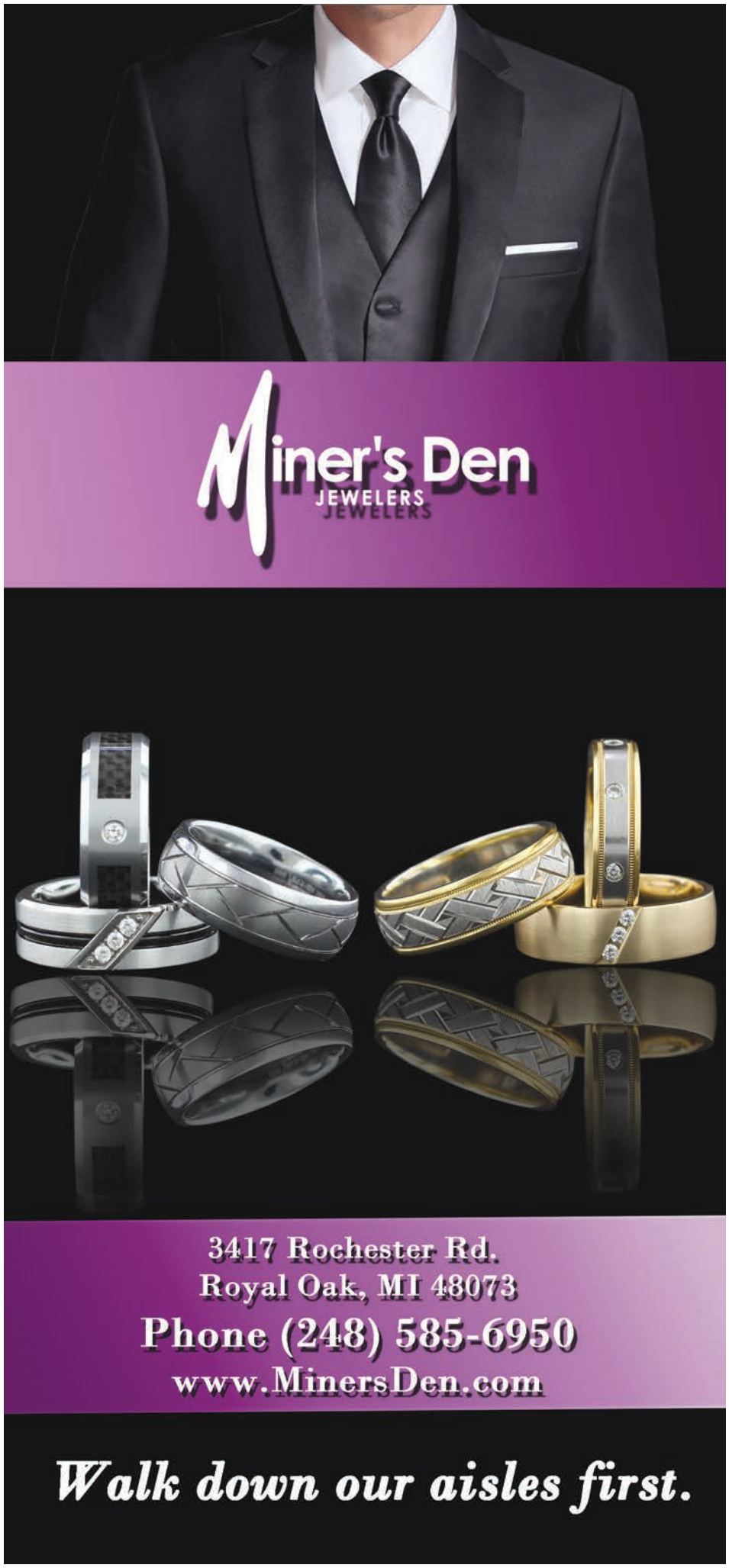
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Aiden Ramirez-Tatum, Morgan Shaw-Andrade and Dr. Kathleen Battles were panelists at the the 33rd Annual Women and Gender Studies Film Festival on Jan. 21 at Oakland University. BTL Photo Kate Opalewski

OU Film Festival Explores Trans Visibility

Spotlight on 'Suited,' a Documentary about Genderless Clothing

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

ROCHESTER – "We all have the right to be handsome." That's what Rae Tutera, a jack-of-all-trades from New York said in "Suited," a documentary about custom suits, accepting difference and living bravely in one's own skin.

That film was featured during the 33rd Annual Women and Gender Studies Film Festival, "Style Beyond the Binary, Transgender Visibility & Recognition," on Jan. 21 at Oakland University in Rochester.

The festival strives to show films that speak to the needs of women, LGBTQ people, and other historically underrepresented groups on campus.

"For people of all genders to feel welcome, involved and supported," said Ami Harbin, Ph.D., assistant professor in women and gender studies and chair of the film festival planning committee. "That is consistent with our work in Women and Gender Studies at OU, and we think the film will open up a lively and thought-provoking discussion."

After navigating the cis/straight custom menswear landscape in 2010 as a transmasculine person, Tutera felt there was a unique need for a trans/queer-identified clothier. "Suited," directed by New York native Jason Benjamin, follows its subjects – clients seeking a personalized experience – into the minimalist office space of Bindle & Keep. The bespoke tailoring company based in Brooklyn caters to a diverse LGBTQ community and looks beyond the gender binary, creating custom-made suits for gender-nonconforming and transgender people.

Going deeper than fine fabrics and silk linings, "Suited" takes a modern, evolved look at gender through the conduit of clothing and elucidates the private and emotional experience surrounding it. With heart and optimism, the film documents a cultural shift that is creating a new demand – and response – for each person's right to go out into the world with confidence. The characters in "Suited" are not all trans men – there are women and gender nonconforming people too. And none of their experiences were framed as less valuable or valid than the other.

The film screening was followed by a panel discussion for an audience of 30-40 people in attendance to discuss the work some local organizations are doing and how it relates to LGBTQ issues and communities, what panelists see as some of the most important issues facing transgender individuals in communities today, and what are some of the most important steps people can take toward supporting transgender individuals and communities.

Panelists included Dr. Kathleen Battles, associate professor, department of communication and journalism, OU; Morgan Shaw-Andrade, OU student and health and wellness counselor at Transcend the Binary in Ferndale; and Aiden Ramirez-Tatum, student lead of training and education at the Spectrum Center, University of Michigan.

Battles specifically studies LGBTQ representation in the media and as transgender visibility is emerging, she said she doesn't like to think about it from the perspective of accuracy as much as she does diversity.

"So when we think about how a group is represented, our question doesn't necessarily need to be is this an accurate representation or not because everyone has different experiences in every group so figuring out what's accurate for one person doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be accurate for another person. This doesn't mean there aren't harmful stereotypes, there are, but what it does mean is that sometimes we just need to

See 'Suited', page 28

► 'Suited'

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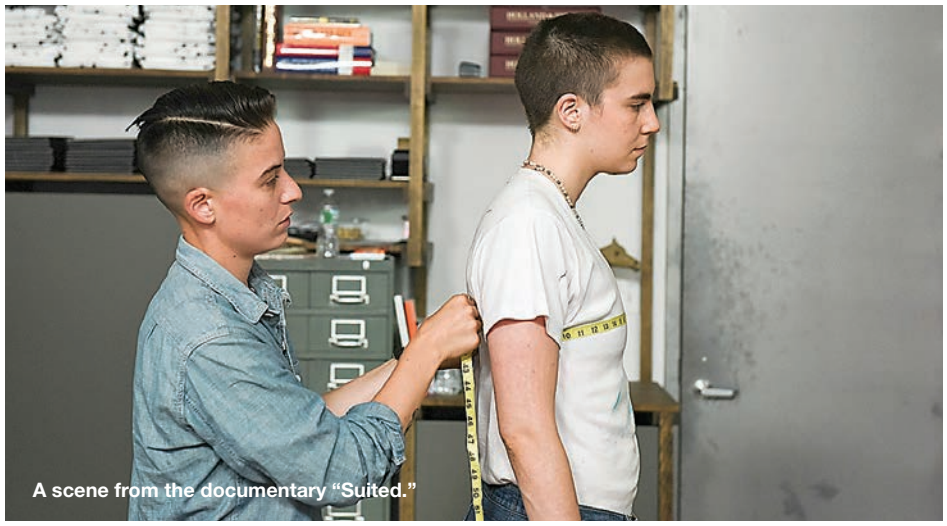
push our thinking a little bit...what are the range of representations that are available," she said, pointing to the extra weight in media representation of the LGBTQ community in comparison to other social groups.

"So many LGBTQ folks – they don't necessarily grow up in a community where there are people like themselves...one of our earliest exposures to those groups of people are media images so those media images become important for self-identity and for how other people think of LGBTQ folks...as trans visibility emerges, how do we watch out for what might become the dominant face of trans visibility and how do we fight against what might become this kind of normalizing discourse so that we end up with 'yay, we get to see trans people,' but only a very narrow slice of trans life when there's so much variety of trans life, which the film emphasizes."

Shaw-Andrade, a transgender individual, said it's important for the LGBTQ community to become loud again as "we've been quiet and fearful since the election of Donald Trump." He is doing his part to "give my community a friendly face where they feel comfortable and they don't feel they have to fit this



A scene from the documentary "Suited."

certain mold - that they can be authentically themselves because that's how we're happiest. I feel that when you are happy with yourself and authentic with yourself you give others the freedom to do the same."

Ramirez-Tatum encouraged people to ask more questions and figure out what's going on at the local level.

"What does my university say about this? If my university has a non-discrimination ordinance that includes gender identity, how far does it go? What does that look like historically? Have people been protected? Is there gender-inclusive housing? What happens when a trans person needs to live somewhere on campus? What happens when a trans person needs to use the facilities? What will happen now that there is a conservative anti-trans person at the front of the office of civil rights? What is my school going to do? Are they doing to unravel any protections that they have? In my student organizations, do we talk about protecting trans people? And this is any student organization. Are there any bylaws in the groups that I am a part of that protects trans people? Does the city I'm in have a non-discrimination ordinance? If it doesn't, what do we do so that it does?," said Ramirez-Tatum.

"Because once these things are rolled back federally, those are going to be the only protections and if the federal government decides to make laws or create norms that are against trans people, there's not much we can do except stand with our communities - so you have to. You have to say am I being a good enough ally and the answer is no for everyone because everyone can reach out more. Everyone can say what more can i do in the spaces that I am in? What more can I do to create more understanding? What more can I do for the trans people that I know? If i don't know any trans people, how can I educate myself to still benefit that community? If I am trans, who in the trans community is most vulnerable? We need to create community strength, we need to push forward policy and we need to create a safety net that is made of people and not of laws that could so easily be taken away from us."

Learn more about the OU Women and Gender Studies Program online https://oakland.edu/wgs or call 248-370-2154. The program office is located at Varner Hall, Room 521, in Rochester.

► Trump Era

Continued from p. 10

Christians," led a prayer service for Trump prior to the inauguration.

• Trump's choice to lead the DOJ's Civil Rights Division has been the lead attorney helping to defend the University of North Carolina's enforcement of a state law banning transgender students from using a public restroom for the gender with which they identify. John M. Gore will serve as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the DOJ's Civil Rights Division.

• Proposition 8's key defender, Charles Cooper, is reportedly one of two finalists for consideration as Solicitor General.

• The Women's March to counter rhetoric used by the president during the campaign - rhetoric that "insulted, demonized, and threatened" a wide variety of women and minorities, including "people who identify as LGBTQIA" – drew enormous crowds to Washington, D.C., and more than 200 cities around the world. The podium at the main event in Washington included at least four openly LGBT speakers, including American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, Astraea-Lesbian Foundation for Justice Executive Director J. Bob Alotta, Transgender Law Center spokesperson Raquel Willis, and professor and activist Angela Davis.

Demonstrations took place in Washington, DC leading up to Inauguration Day. AP photo.

• U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin attended the exclusive post-inaugural luncheon for President Trump, held in Statutory Hall at the Capitol. Baldwin was invited as a member of the current Democratic leadership team in the House. According to The Hill newspaper, Baldwin was one of two senators that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton spent much of her time talking to at the luncheon.

• Russian television was interested in LGBT participation in inaugural events. The Russian news channel RT.com reported that various events and protests, including a "gay dance party," were scheduled "in an attempt to sabotage Donald Trump's inauguration."

• An unofficial inaugural ball, one hosted specifically for "Gays for Trump," was held in a Washington suburb on Saturday night. According to Time magazine, the group called its event the "Deplorable Ball" – an apparent reference to Clinton's use of the word "deplorables" to describe some of Trump's supporters.

• A group called Qockblockade Brigade staged "queer resistance" actions during the inauguration. According to various news reports, the group, and similar direct action groups supporting other issues, staged sit-ins and "dance parties" at security checkpoints for entering the inauguration audience sites. The group said its purpose was "to remind Inauguration attendees, as well as the world, that we're here, we're queer, and we're not going back in the closet."

Nearly 200 Mayors from 43 States Launch Coalition for LGBT Protections

BY BTL STAFF

In advance of Friday's inauguration, nearly 200 mayors across the country announced "Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination," a broad-based, nonpartisan coalition comprised of local officials who support equal protections and fair treatment of all LGBT people.

The launch was announced at a breakfast roundtable briefing and discussion among LGBT policy experts and dozens of mayors – including co-chairs of the coalition – at the Holland & Knight law offices in Washington, DC. The discussion centered on what mayors and local officials can do to support their LGBT constituents and advance equal protections at home, and took place alongside Freedom for All Americans and the Center for American Progress.

Nearly 200 mayors from 43 states have joined the coalition to date. Mayors that joined in the state of Michigan include Rosalynn Bliss, Grand Rapids; Jim Carruthers, Traverse; Dave Coulter, Ferndale; Amanda Edmonds, Ypsilanti; Kenneth Fletcher, Lansing; Michael Fournier, Royal Oak; Bobby Hopewell, Kalamazoo; Mark Meadows, East Lansing; Kurt Metzger, Pleasant Ridge; Kathleen Newsham, Bay City; Ken Siver, Southfield; Christopher Taylor, Ann Arbor; Michael Taylor, Sterling Heights; and Hubert Yopp, Highland Park.

The co-chairs include San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee; Seattle Mayor Ed Murray; DC Mayor Muriel Bowser; and Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney.

The full list of current Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination can be found online www.mayorsagainstlgbtdiscrimination.org.

Casting Call Put Out for Trans Women of Color

Documentary, Book Project on Trans Women of Color in Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Trans Sistas of Color Project is holding an online casting call for trans women of color interested in being a part of an upcoming documentary and book project. TSOCP is looking for 35 trans women of color who are either Detroit natives or current residents of the city.

"Given the level of violence that trans women experience, compounded with the anti-trans rhetoric and trans bathroom bills popping up around the country, there is a critical need for a seismic shift in the way our sisters narratives are being told," said John Trimble, TSOCP's deputy director, who will act as the executive producer and director of the film project. "We recognize the enormous responsibility and challenge that comes with recording, capturing and presenting the narratives shared with us. We want to honor that responsibility by exceeding the challenge and creating this body of work that changes hearts and liberates minds."

TSOCP is currently working on a trailer for the film to secure additional funding to complete the project. The production of the trailer is being funded by Detroit Narrative Agency's Seed Grant Project for Moving Image Projects. The objective of the What's T film is three part. First, to amplify, share and uplift the voices, stories, narratives and experiences of trans women of color in Detroit; second, to change the way in which trans women of color are viewed, vilified and often targeted as victims of anti-trans violence; third, to examine – through the lens of trans women of color – how micro/macro aggressions, systemic, cultural, organizational, inter/intra community oppression and violence are significant factors that show us as constant impediments and barriers to trans women of color living full lives like their non-trans, non-lgb counterparts.

"This project is near and dear to my heart because as a director of a local and national emerging trans-led organization, it's important to shift the narrative from a position of lack and violence to a position of power and resilience," said Bre' Campbell, TSOCP's executive director. "Trans women of color, especially those from the metro Detroit area, have been surviving with very limited support. [This has been the case] long before the new president was elected and will continue long after his wave of hatred and discrimination ends."

The online casting call will continue through Jan. 31. The TSOCP will also host a private casting call event on the final day of submissions. Further information about the project will be explained and presented to the community at that time. The online casting call application can be found at http://gaybe.am/M8. For more information, email whatstdocufilm@gmail.com.

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Transforming Minds One Truth at a Time

Photo: SEESO

Comedian Ian Harvie on How 'We're All Trans' and Comedy as a Tool for Change

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

For Ian Harvie, it's not about earning the title of "first trans person in the world with a one-hour standup special." Though that's a tag the FTM comedian can now claim, for him, he's hopeful more trans comedians will walk through the door he swung open with "May the Best Cock Win," airing on NBC's digital network, SEESO.

"I'm so excited that a digital network like SEESO, an NBC-based company, has said 'yes' to the first trans comic special, which will provide a pathway for others to come through," remarks the Portland, Maine native.

Harvie, who made his acting debut as Dale during the premiere season of Amazon's Emmy-winning "Transparent," recently opened up about how Margaret Cho was instrumental in helping him discover his standup voice, being a "butch dyke who was only visible because I looked like a man with huge tits," and the unifying power of comedy..

I have a feeling people will be questioning their own penis adequacy after seeing your comedy special.

Because you get what you get? Don't overthink it! I make jokes, but people think I must have it bad because I'm a guy without a dick, but really I have many. I have tons of dicks. I have a range: softies that you can pack in your underwear to make it look like you have a penis, but, really, I'm too lazy to even remember to do that. Small, medium, large. Vibrating ones. Balls, no balls. Different colors. Ones that look kind of alien that don't have a penis head. All kinds of different dicks. I'm old enough to have a collection. (Laughs)

Oh, you've been collecting for that long?

Yes, and I've had girlfriends be like, "No, we're getting a new one." It's very lesbian to be like, "Listen, those other dicks you bought with other girlfriends – they're not going in me. We're getting a new one." (Laughs) It's very interesting. I mean, I can't say, "Listen, you gotta get a new vagina." And if you're a dude with a dick, you can't get rid of it and get a new one just because you fucked someone else with it. That's the dick you have. It's a very loose queer/lesbian/dyke rule that if you have a collection of dicks and you have a new partner, you're getting a new dick.

For some trans people, discussing genitalia and gender-reassignment surgery can be touchy subjects. How do trans people react to those topics when you talk about them?

I don't get negative feedback from trans people because I'm only talking about my story, and I think most people understand when they're watching comedy, especially my comedy, it's narrative. So, I'm not sharing someone else's story. I don't think that you can go, "Well, that's not true about trans people," because, well, I'm a trans person and it's true for me.

It's rare, but I think the negative stuff that I get has been when I maybe come across as ageist, like wanting old, conservative people to die.

Because you're a public figure, many trans people may see their story reflected in yours.

Listen, you can identify with feelings – you don't have to identify with a person's exact story. I want to make a distinction because it's so funny when people come out – if you like what they have to say, people call them a role model; if you don't like what they have

to say, they're a public figure. That's the difference. (Laughs) So, I may be a public figure, but being a comic, just by the nature of the art, people aren't always going to agree with me, and that's OK.

I don't mind being a public figure. I hope that some of the things that I have to say actually resonate with people. I had a guy come up to me after a show who was a cisgender male – a straight guy – who was tortured in junior high because his nipples were raised. He started to play sports and people tortured the shit out of him. He was labeled as feminine because of his raised nipples, which today would be worshipped in gay culture! (Laughs) But he said he had surgery to correct this thing that he had been tortured by. He wanted to do it for himself to feel better in his body, and he came up to me after a show and was like, "Listen, I never, ever thought of it that way, and I never thought anybody would speak to me like you did."

What I realized by doing these shows: At first I thought this was gonna be great for the trans community. We'd have this shared experience, and I can speak and they can have things that resonate with them. Now, I just feel I'm speaking to everybody. We're all the same. This is so stupid. We're all trans. All the same. We're all struggling with this. It's not unique to trans people. And I don't want trans people to think they're not unique or beautiful and special – I don't mean it that way. But this is a shared experience. If you don't feel weird, you're the weirdo.

Do you see your comedy as a bridge to trans acceptance?

Yeah, I do. I think it's one of the most powerful ways to help people access something that they haven't been able to access before. I marched with ACT UP and Queer Nation back in the late '80s, early '90s. Started waving signs. I actually had blank foam core and markers in the trunk of my car ready to go anytime, and I remember going to marches and getting in people's faces. That resistance *is* effective – it absolutely is. But I also found this other medium in comedy, where you walk into a comedy club and the audience is so incredibly diverse. People just want to laugh, and it doesn't matter what you're talking about. If you can make them laugh, you can access them and give them information about something that they had no idea about before. So, I think comedy is a really amazing tool to change people on old ideas they had.

And this is part of the privilege of being a dude. I get there, I look like a dude, I sound like a dude, and grossly people listen to dudes more. I think what happens is people walk away without realizing it, having this new frame of reference for who trans people are. We're not weirdos. We're not freaks. We're not all the stereotypes that people have put out there in the media in the past. And there's not a fucking foam core sign in their face. That has value too, absolutely. But it's a totally different way of accessing them. I'm not wagging my finger at them. I'm making them laugh.

You say that an audience is more apt to listen to a man rather than a woman. Is that based on any personal experience of your own?

It's this weird shift for me to go from this butch dyke who was only visible because I looked like a man with huge tits. I mean, I was visible for that, but I wasn't sexually visible to people. I definitely wasn't anything near a sort of female standard that culturally we have, so I was largely invisible until they figured out that I was female. Then, I was just weird. Now, there's a shift in how people look at me and listen to me.

How does it make you feel to know that people sexualize you in a way they didn't before you transitioned?

I'm gonna say something that will piss people off, but generally speaking, if people find true value in compliments about their appearance, then there's probably some void that needs to be filled that will never be filled with compliments. (Compliments) have never, ever done anything for me. After my chest surgery, I started taking hormones, and I started to love myself in a different way and people (were) seeing what I was feeling about myself. But comments on my appearance? Those are empty to me.

What kind of place did comedy have in your life as a kid?

When you were a kid did you get together with siblings or cousins and put on shows for your family? My thing was, I would come out in the intermission and do a comedy set, and I wrote my own jokes and they were horrible. They made no sense whatsoever. I didn't understand joke structure – I was 6. But I used to watch "The Carol Burnett Show" and all the Dean Martin roasts. I used to watch Flip Wilson and Rich Little. Oh god, when I was a kid, we had Bill Cosby's album of storytelling, which I kind of cringe at now. But at the time, while he was, you know, drugging women, we had his vinyl on our record player, and I remember listening to that. So, I was the comic relief in the theatrical shows we performed. I would always come out during the break while they were changing behind the curtain sheet on a clothesline, and they would be behind me, and I would be telling jokes to my aunts and uncles. That was my early sort of exposure. It's so weird that after being a kid it never even dawned on me – never registered – that I could ever be an artist like that and entertain

See next page

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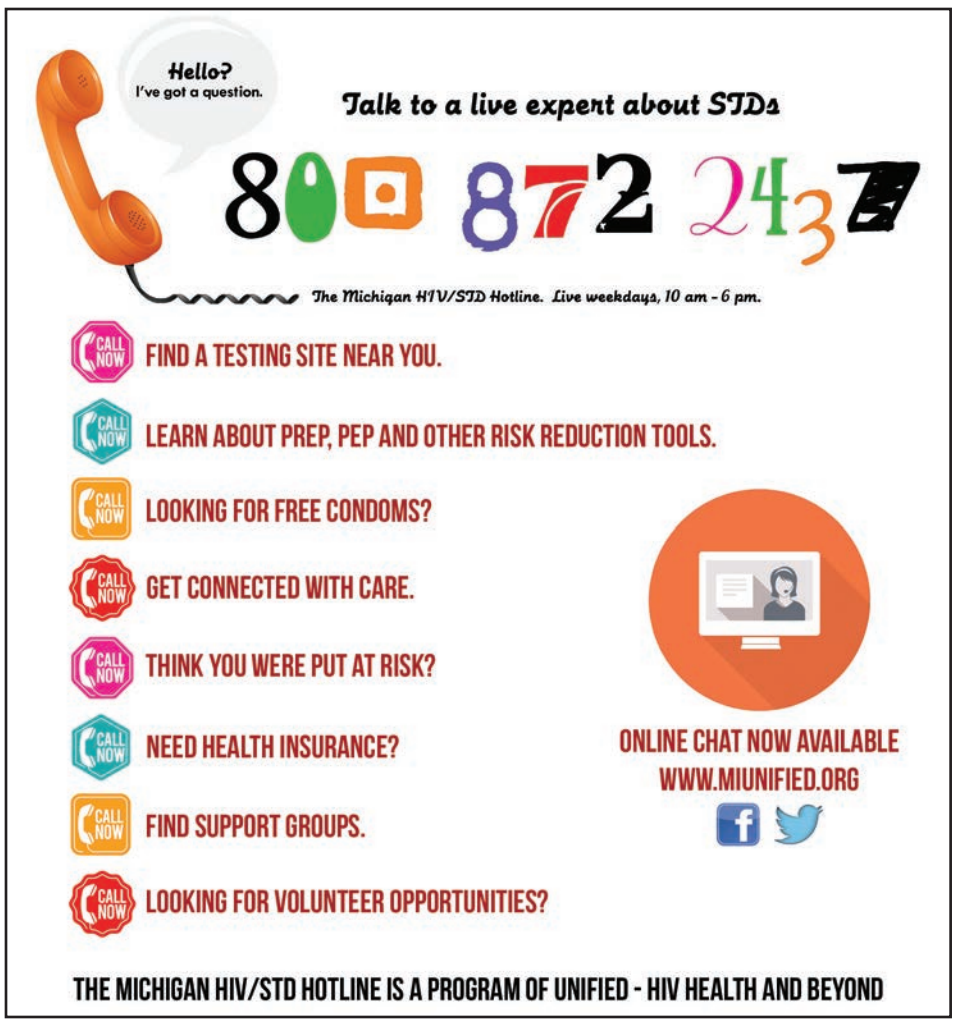
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► Ian Harvie

Continued from p.31

people and have it be a career.

I talk about this frequently, but it really was life changing: This guy – a writer for "The Daily Show" – was writing jokes for "The Daily Show" and he was looking for something creative to do locally. He started offering comedy-writing workshops at our local comedy club, and he sent me a postcard, and randomly I got it. I owned a web development company, and I'm like, "What the hell is this?" It's so weird because it was really kind of kitschy, with this cartoony black, old-timey microphone in the spotlight. I left it on my desk at my office for a couple of weeks, and I stared at it many times. I was like, "I'm interested, but I'm really scared." Finally, I picked up the phone at the end of the week before the class started the following Monday and said, "Hey, I saw your postcard," and he was like, "I got one spot left." I said, "I'll take it! I'll take it!" I did the workshop and fell in love, and that was 15 years ago this January.

At first I started by writing poop and fart jokes, and I'm like, "OK, that's not me," but I was too scared to tell the truth in the beginning of who I was. About two years into it, I wrote my material but didn't really understand who I was on stage until a couple of years later. It takes a while to figure out who you are.

How did getting to know and touring with Margaret Cho in 2006 help you find your voice?

I consider Margaret one of those people who's an absolute truth-teller on stage. She's very raw and open about who she is, what she's done, what's she's seen, how she deals with things. Traveling with her absolutely cracked me open and helped me be more brave about exactly who I was.

I remember saying to her that I was scared to tell LGBT audiences that I was trans, and she's like "Why? These are your people!" But I'm like, "I know, but they're the ones I want to love me the most." She's like, "We need representation from the trans community. We really need that. They need to hear your story." It really changed my perspective because I was like, "I can actually be of service here. I can tell my story."

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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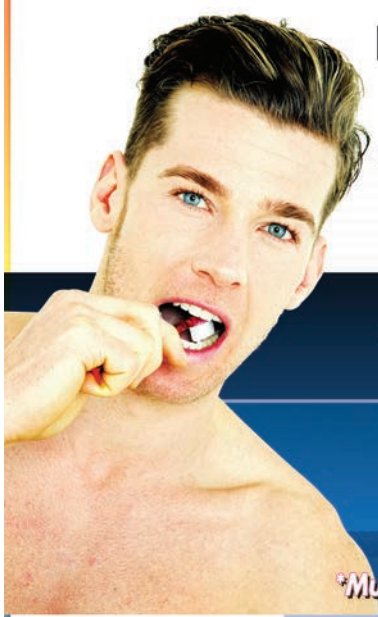

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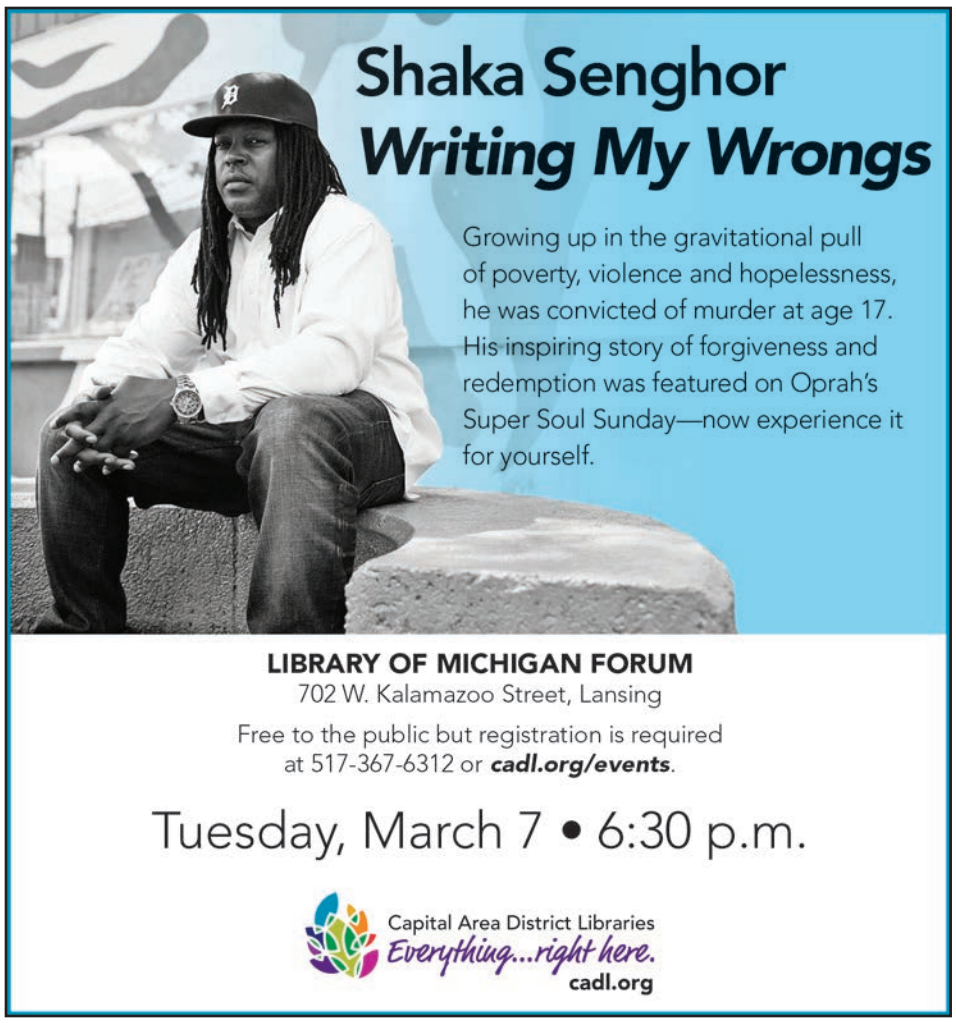
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The OutField: Meg Linehan 'Excelles' at Covering Women's Sports

BY DAN WOOG

We often talk about the "sports world." It sounds like one big place. Like the real world though, it's made up of many separate countries. There's a mind-boggling variety of sports. There are pro, college, high school and amateur sports. There are men's sports, women's sports and, of course, LGBT sports.

Meg Linehan

Meg Linehan has a special vantage point for observing those worlds. As senior editor for Excelle Sports (www.excellesports.com) – one of the few websites dedicated to women's sports – she covers team sports like soccer, basketball and ice hockey; individual sports like tennis and rowing, and everything in between.

Launched less than a year ago – on International Women's Day last March – the site draws up to 150,000 unique visitors a month. The goal is to keep the spotlight on female athletes in between the Olympics and soccer's World Cup. "There are lots of stories to tell," Linehan says.

She singles out, for example, the fight for equal pay now being waged by the United States women's national soccer team. She has written insightful pieces on athletes like Serena Williams and Breanna Stewart as they emerge as leaders for social change.

Recently, Linehan examined the difference between the term "sports" – which really means "men's sports" – and the separate category of "women's sports." She believes that "women's sports" can stand on their own: At the 2016 Rio Olympics, U.S. female athletes won more medals than many countries' men and women combined.

Some of Linehan's stories involve sexuality. One of her favorites, which has not been widely reported, involves the National Women's Hockey League. Buffalo Beauts star Harrison Browne is transgender. He plays as a man in the women's league – with the full support of league officials, the Buffalo team and their fans. (And why not? Browne scored the first goal of the season this year.)

"It's a cool story," Linehan says. "It's not just about the league being a space for women, but about moving past traditional roles." The fact that it has become, very quickly, a non-story makes it all the more fascinating.

The senior editor – who began her career with Equalizer Soccer, an online source for women's soccer news – has also been impressed by the positive reaction to Jill Ellis. The out head coach of the U.S. women's national team did an animated branding video sponsored by Ritz about her life in Florida with her wife and daughter (and peacocks). "It was all very casual and matter-of-fact," Linehan says.

Linehan is intrigued too by a recent story on Megan Rapinoe. In solidarity with San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick and other athletes protecting social inequalities, the out soccer star knelt on the sidelines during the national anthem – first with her Seattle Reign professional side, then with the U.S. national team.

"We're starting to see the intersectionality of athletics, race and sexuality," Linehan says. "The Black Lives Matter movement is becoming part of sports."

In the Women's National Basketball Association, she notes, lesbian and straight players have taken public stands on Black Lives Matter and other social justice issues.

There are vast differences in public perceptions of sexuality in men's and women's sports, Linehan acknowledges, with females far ahead of males. Men still face "lingering concerns" about being known – or even perceived – as gay. Sure, there are still "wildly uninformed people" who believe all female athletes are lesbians. But, Linehan says, there is far less stigma about homosexuality in the women's ranks.

That has not always been the case. For years, women's basketball – at the professional and college levels – tried to portray a "no-lesbians" image. Now, Linehan says, she does not run into that at all. Women's National Basketball Association coaches and players have "really stepped up" (and out). The WNBA hosts an entire Pride Month (sponsored by Aquafina).

Nearly a year into the launch of Excelle Sports, the senior editor scans the horizon for new stories. As Donald Trump prepares to take power in Washington, D.C., she is watching Title IX anxiously.

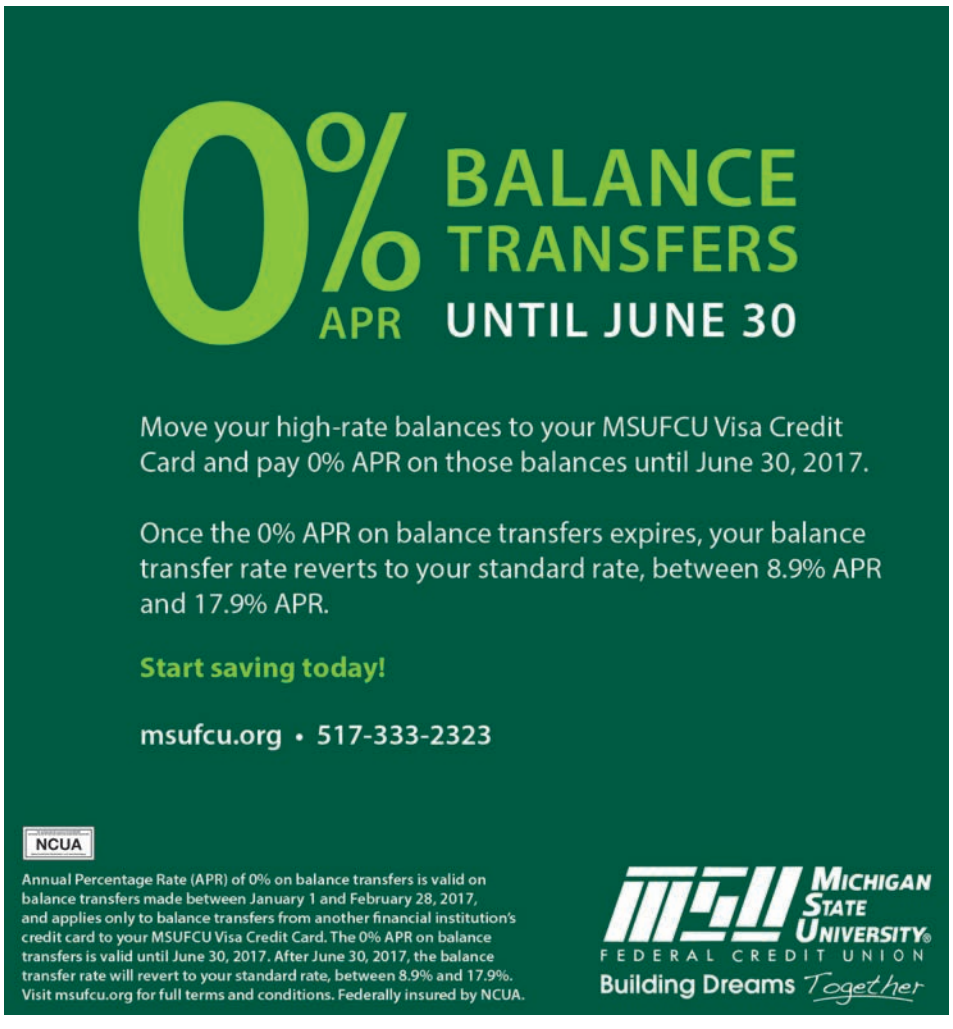
"The Obama administration used it as a way to prevent and address sexual violence," Linehan says. "They very clearly included trans students in that. A new administration could erase that. We'll keep an eye on it."

Her goal moving forward, she says, is to keep telling stories about the issues facing women in sports. Sexuality issues are an enormous part of those stories.

Linehan would like to see the day when "sports" refers to everyone; "women's sports" won't need to be separate.

But until that day, she'll keep her eye on the women's sports ball.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars."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Williamston Theatre Starts 2017 with Premiere of 'A Painted Window'

"A Painted Window" begins with five preview performances starting Jan. 26. During the first four previews audience members will have the opportunity to take part in the process of creating a show by participating in a talkback session with the director and playwright following each performance. The official opening night is Feb. 3 at 8 p.m., with the show scheduled to run through Feb. 26. Performances will run Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. with additional 3 p.m. matinees on Saturdays starting Feb. 4. The Conversation Sunday for "A Painted Window" is Feb. 19.

How deep do the bonds of sisterhood go? "A Painted Window" catalogues the reunion of two sisters, Josephine and Sylvia, that used to giggle together late at night, yet now stand worlds apart. Forced to move in together after decades of estrangement, the two women struggle to reconcile their past, navigate the present and plan their future. "A Painted Window" is a beautifully crafted play about family, loss, regret and the staggering power of fear, but it's also a keen dissection of identity, classism, racism, and the havoc that consumerism, greed and entitlement have wreaked on the American Dream. Ultimately, though, this is a play about love.

Tickets are Pay-What-You-Can for the preview on Jan. 26. Remaining preview tickets are still $15. Starting opening night, adult tickets prices are $30 for Friday and Saturday evenings, $27 for Saturday and Sunday matinees and $25 for Thursday evenings. Senior citizens (65 and older) and members of the military receive a $2 discount on all tickets. Student tickets (with a valid student ID) remain $10 for all performances. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more (booked at least 1 week in advance through the box office). Tickets can be purchased Tuesday-Friday from 12-6 p.m. by calling (517) 655-SHOW (7469) or by visiting the box office, and ordered online up until 1 1/2 hours prior to the performance by visiting www.williamstontheatre.org. Please be aware that payment is required at the time the reservation is made.

Performances begin Jan. 26 and run through Feb. 26. The Williamston Theatre is located at 122 S. Putnam Street, just three doors south of the Four Corners intersection of Putnam Street and Grand River Ave., in the heart of historic downtown Williamston. Call 517-655-7469.

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Review: A Small Town Turns to Theater for Salvation in Theatre Nova's 'Popcorn Falls'

BY JENN MCKEE

ANN ARBOR – When an economically depressed town is at its breaking point, and residents are scrambling for solutions, you wouldn't expect the fiscal-strategy-of-choice to involve opening a theater. But in the quirky, offbeat world of James Hindman's "Popcorn Falls," now being staged at Theatre Nova, that's the scenario. In order to access funds earmarked for the arts, the Kernels – which is what Popcorn Falls' residents call themselves – must come together and put on a show.

Formerly a tourist destination, the beleaguered town has come on hard times since a dam diverted the (former) falls' water elsewhere. A new mayor, Mr. Trundle (Jeff Priskorn), works with his colleague and friend, Joe (Jonathan Jones), to create a play from scratch, cast it and present it, all within a few days' time.

Priskorn and Jones not only play the characters mentioned above, but also several eccentric townspeople, plus a cigar-chomping power broker from a neighboring town who's calling the shots. Because Mayor Trundle is the play's central character, Priskorn only occasionally ventures into other personas, while Jones must be a kind of turbo-chameleon, quickly shifting gears in nearly every scene by changing his voice and posture (and sometimes his cap), to the point of playing both sides of a single conversation.

Though both actors serve Hindman's material well – well-guided by director Daniel C. Walker – Jones' is the more wow-worthy performance, simply by virtue of the focused finesse necessary to juggle his many roles.

And that's what a play like "Popcorn Falls" boils down to: the magic of watching two actors stretch themselves into multiple roles before your eyes. A lot of regional theater companies have produced these duo-plays-a-multitude comedies in recent years, because it costs less to stage a play with two actors instead of six, and it features a neat theatrical stunt at its core. And "Popcorn Falls" has its moments of humor and charm; but in the realm of plays of this type, it never particularly rises above being a pleasant-but-unmemorable diversion.

Several characters seem overly familiar as "types," and some of the play's logistic challenges are resolved in a clunky, unsatisfying way. (In one scene, Jones plays a barmaid, switches to another character, and then Priskorn briefly exits and returns as that same barmaid character.)

But Walker's direction makes some awkward transitions less so, even playing them for laughs; and to his (and the actors') credit, clarity is never an issue. In addition, Walker designed the play's lighting, which helps tell the story by guiding the audience through the play's shifts; and the bare bones set, which mostly consists of two doors for the actors to enter and exit from while changing roles, and a small blackboard, hung on a pole, onto which the actors write the location for each scene.

We're now in a moment of great anxiety at the national level, of course; and art of all kinds has the amazing power to simultaneously distract us and re-focus us in unexpected ways. So is "Popcorn Falls" flawless? No. But does it provide a few chuckles while telling the heartening story of small town folk banding together to create art? Yes. So if a light night of theater is what your soul craves, consider "Popcorn Falls" to be like the food in its title: a decent snack, if not necessarily a hearty meal.

Popcorn Falls performances take place through Feb. 12 at Theatre Nova, located at 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor, 734-635-8450

This review originally appeared on www.EncoreMichigan.com, Michigan's website covering professional theater.

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Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer, genderfabulous, transgender, gender-exploring folks and all those who transgress gender binaries. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

LGBTQ Book and Movie Club 7 p.m. Meets the 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Parent Support Group 7 p.m. Dr. Melissa Farrell, LCP and Roz Keith facilitate ongoing group for parents of trans youth to better understand what it means to be transgender. Event is free. Stand With Trans , 5725 Walnut Lake Rd, **West Bloomfield Twp. .** 248-661-5700. laura@temple-israel.org

Friday, Jan. 27

Winter Donation Drive Accepting winter hats, coats, earmuffs, gloves, and scarves of all sizes. Each Friday from 5-7 p.m., Affirmations will hand out these items as needed until Jan. 27. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 2483987105. lreyes@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Mobile Check-In 7 p.m. Public broadcast online FtM Detroit, **Detroit.** www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/

Saturday, Jan. 28

Smart Recovery 10 a.m. Smart Recovery offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Alcoholics Anonymous

Editor's Pick

Smeared Lipstick

Affirmations in Ferndale has created a safe space for self-identified feminine lesbian women to discuss issues specific to them, to network and to build unity. Smeared Lipstick meetings are held every fourth Saturday from 3-6 p.m. This group also plans for monthly community service projects to increase their visibility in every community. Join Smeared Lipstick on Jan. 28 at 290 W. Nine Mile Road Ferndale. Visit www.goaffirmations.org for more information.

Brownbaggers 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Smeared Lipstick 3 p.m. A discussion group for self identified feminine lesbian women to identify issues specific to them. The group also does a monthly community service project to increase their visibility in every community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Group for gay, bisexual and transgender men ages 18 and up. This group frequently offers holiday parties and outings such as movie nights in addition to regular meetings. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

KGLRC Winter Gala and Fundraiser Tickets: $35-75. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 314 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo.** 248-349-4234. margy@kglrc.org www.kglrc.org

Sunday, Jan. 29

The Legend of Georgia McBride 3 p.m. Tickets: $10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale.** 2485455545. www.theringwald.com

Potluck 6 p.m. Residential location. FtM Detroit, 313 W. Webster, **Ferndale.** www.facebook/FtMDetroit/

Monday, Jan. 30

Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sexual Addicts Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Coming Out Over Coffee 7 p.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Narcotics Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. An open discussion group for people identifying as transgender and their allies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Suicide Prevention and Addiction 7:30 p.m. By Raymond Dalton, MA, CAADC. Free, open to anyone with a personal or professional interest. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliott Drive , **Ypsilanti.** 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

Thursday, Feb. 2

PFLAG Trans Meeting 7 p.m. First Thursday monthly PFLAG Tri-Cities, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City.** leishashaler@gmail.com www.pflag.org

Friday, Feb. 3

"Self-Love" Pre-National Black HIV Testing Day 7 p.m. Snacks, poetry, music, art and knowledge. All are welcome. Wake Upp, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 2483987105. www.goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Feb. 5

Drag Queen Bingo 11 a.m. Tickets: $20-$30. Reservations required. 18+ Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak.** 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

Monday, Feb. 6

Factory Monday 9 p.m. Goth-industrial night. Main room: DJ Void6 hosted by MC Yoda. Red Room: DJ Madisi. Tickets: $1-3. Necto, 516 E. Liberty, **Ann Arbor.** www.necto.com

Tuesday, Feb. 7

Gamenight 1 a.m. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 MILE RD Apt. xxx, **Sterling Heights.** www.meetup.com

MUSIC & MORE

Concerts

Blind Pig "Hiss Golden Messenger with Scott Hirsch" Tickets: $15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Jan. 28. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Laith Al-Saadi" Tickets: $20-25. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 27 - Jan. 27. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Handgrenades with Jungle Fowl" Tickets: $5, $8 (under 21). Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. Jan. 26. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mozart Festival: "Nachtmusik"" Tickets: $15-100. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 2 - Feb. 3. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mozart Festival: Clarinet Concerto" Tickets: $15-100. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 27 - Jan. 27. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org

Editor's Pick

16th Annual Ferndale Blues & Music Festival

The 16th Annual Ferndale Blues & Music Festival once again brings music and crowds to locations across the Ferndale area from Jan. 27-Feb 6. It has grown to more than 55 concerts and music events in at least 16 venues over nine days.

"People love music and they need it in the cold dark days of winter," says festival co-chair and co-founder Craig Covey. "It can get you out of the house to enjoy great food and drink, hang with your friends, and chill." Proceeds for the event benefit Ferndale Youth Assistance. An up-to-date schedule of events, concerts and locations is available at www.ferndalebluesfestival.org.

Live Nation "Umphrey's McGee Night 1 with Spafford" Tickets: $22.50-39.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Feb. 3. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Live Nation "Umphrey's McGee Night 2 with Spafford" Tickets: $22.50-39.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Feb. 4. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Majestic Theater "BoomBox" Tickets: $18-20. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 28. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

MSU Chinese Undergraduate Students Association "Chinese Spring Festival Gala" Tickets: $17.50. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 6 p.m. Jan. 28. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

MSU College of Music "Wind Symphony" Tickets: $13.50-15.50. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

Olympia Entertainment "The Lumineers" Tickets: $39.50-59.50. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7 p.m. Jan. 27. 248-377-0100. www.palacenet.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Louis The Child" Tickets: $18-20. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Jan. 27. 248-399-2980. www.romtlive.com

St. Andrew's Hall "Dashboard Confessional" Tickets: $27.50. St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 27. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

The Magic Bag "The Mega 80's" Tickets: $12. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Jan. 28. 248-544-3030. www.themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "The Mega 80's with Boogie Dynomite" Tickets: $12. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Jan. 27. 248-544-3030. www.themagicbag.com

The Magic Stick "Guccimen, Acemyth, Knight, Grant Jackson" Tickets: $10. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9:30 p.m. Jan. 28. 313-833-9700 . www.majesticdetroit.com

The Magic Stick "Purity Ring (DJ Set)" Tickets: $15-20. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 26. 313-833-9700 . www.majesticdetroit.com

The River "Sam Roberts Band" Tickets: $25. St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 26. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Festivals

The Ark "40th Ann Arbor Folk Festival Night Two" Tickets: $37.50-200. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 28. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

The Ark "40th Ann Arbor Folk Festival Night One" Tickets: $37.50-200. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 27. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

Other

Penny Stamps Speaker Series "Hank Willis Thomas: The Truth is I Love You" Free admission. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Jan. 26. www.stamps.umich.edu

THEATER

Sing Happy!: A Celebration of Kander and Ebb Tickets: $30 for dinner and show; $15 for show only. Penny Seats Theatre Company, Conor O'Neills Irish Pub and Restaurant, 318 S Main St. , Ann Arbor. Feb. 2 - Feb. 16. www.pennyseats.org/box-office

Civic/Community Theater

Romeo & Juliet Tickets: $12-20. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Through Jan. 29. 313-986=9156. www.slipstreamti.com

Strawberry, What Party? Play, directed by Mary Bremer-Beer, explores who killed Tamara Strawberry Greene at former mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's Manoogian Mansion party. Tickets: $20-25. Journalist Carol Teegardin, YMCA Boll Theater, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Through Jan. 29. 800-838-3006. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2594393

Professional

CLUE - A Staged Reading Pay what you can. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Jan. 29. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Firepower by Kermit Frazier Tickets: $17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 12. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Men Are From Mars - Women Are From Venus . Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 4. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Riot Grrrl 90s Tickets: $10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through Jan. 28. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Romeo & Juliet Tickets: $12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Through Jan. 29. 313-986-9156. www.slipstreamti.com

The Lion King . Broadway in Detroit, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Feb. 1 - Feb. 26. 313-237-SING. www.broadwayindetroit.com

The Vagina Monologues Tickets: $15.50-$26.50. VMONS at MSU, Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Jan. 27 - Jan. 28. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit Institute of Arts "Bitter|Sweet: Coffee, Tea & Chocolate" What is your ritual for drinking coffee, tea or chocolate? Take a picture and share it on Instagram. It's all part of the Detroit Institute of Arts' exhibit - the first of its kind at the museum to engage all five senses. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - March 5. 313-833-7900. http://www.dia.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "The Body Eclectic '17" Reception, Feb. 17, 6-9 p.m. Works by Nora Venturelli. Free and open to the public. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Feb. 1 - Feb. 24. 2485440394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Static Network "The Two-Headed Raptor Show" $10 admission benefits the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This art show features the works of Tom Beste and Brendan Patrick. Studio 8700, 8700 W. Nine Mile Road, Oak Park. 7 p.m. Jan. 28. 248-965-2832. https//www.facebook.com/events/232075883883436/?notif_t=plan_user_invited¬if_id=1483477273288026

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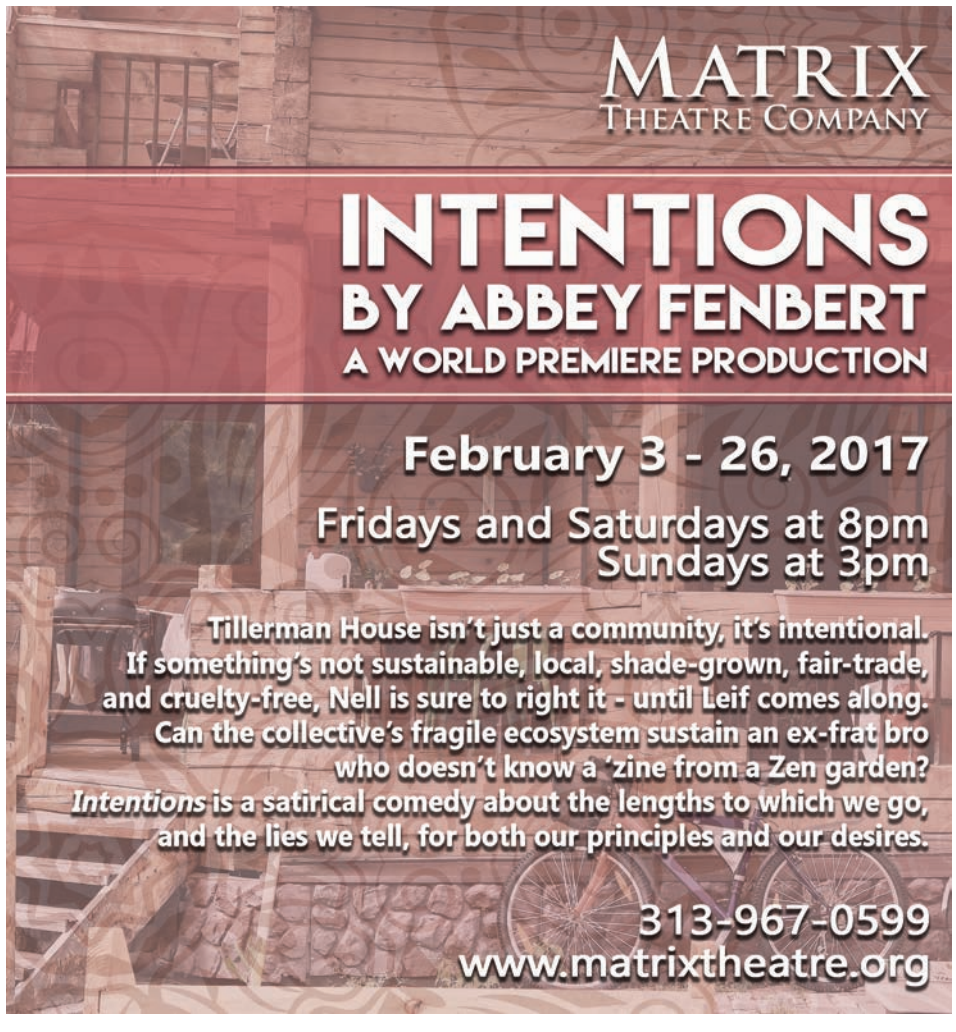
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303 EMPLOYMENT – SALES

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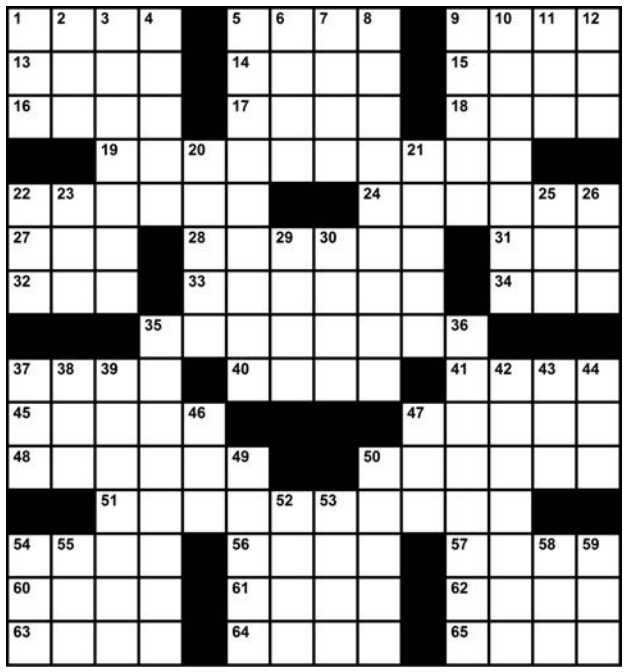
Q Puzzle



Trans Position

Across

1 Whale's "The Man in the Iron ___ "
5 Some writers work on it
9 DeGeneres voice role
13 "The African Queen" author
14 Spanish cooking pot
15 "June Is Bustin' Out All ___"
16 Streisand, for short
17 "Safe!" or "Out!" in Glenn Burke's sport
18 Gets hard
19 Caitlyn Jenner was on its July, 2016 cover
22 Black sheep's cry
24 Meryl of "The Hours"
27 "A League of Their ___ "
28 Metropolitan Community Church congregations, e.g.
31 Mommy census for Heather
32 Astroglide alternative
33 Early feminist author Olsen
34 Cowpoke's nickname
35 With 51-Across, Avery Jackson was on its January, 2017 cover
37 Step, to Frida
40 They may be split
41 Bygone pump name
45 Year in the reign of Gaius Caesar
47 Clinton Secretary of Defense
48 Michelangelo's land
50 Most judicious
51 See 35-Across
54 Jodie Foster, to Yale
56 Mongolian desert
57 Sally who rode into space
60 Ward of "Once and Again"
61 "Why should ___ you?"
62 Singer k.d.
63 Rhein port
64 Hari Nef was on its September, 2016 cover
65 Loose woman, in the land of Auden

Down

1 Queen in "Romeo and Juliet"
2 Muslim title
3 Alfred, to Batman
4 Meat on a skewer
5 Attendee at the Oscars, e.g.
6 Dreadlocks feature
7 Cousin of Jethro and Jethrine
8 Soft leathers
9 Refusal to a butch
10 Rupert of "Stage Beauty"
11 Came upon
12 Areas for Dr. Callie Torres
20 1993 treaty acronym
21 Cruising, maybe
22 Bend over
23 Leave open-mouthed
25 Mama of Mary's little lamb
26 "A ___ on both your houses!"
29 Lena of "Queen of the Damned"
30 Dirt clump
35 Hamlet, for example
36 1957 Cole Porter musical
37 Waikiki paste
38 Queen of the hill
39 Bird over P'town
42 Hamburger Mary's offering
43 Liza, to Lorna
44 Can. province
46 AFL counterpart
47 "That was good, honey!"
49 Texas A&M athlete
50 Ill will
52 What to have in the hay
53 First homicide victim
54 Part of DADT
55 Matthew in "The Producers"
58 Kind of fingerprint
59 One that gets laid

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

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WHAT WOULD HE SAY IF HE KNEW I HAD A SEX DREAM ABOUT HIS BEST FRIEND'S HUSBAND?
I WON'T TELL HIM. IT WAS JUST A DREAM. WHY SHOULD I UPSET HIM IF HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?!
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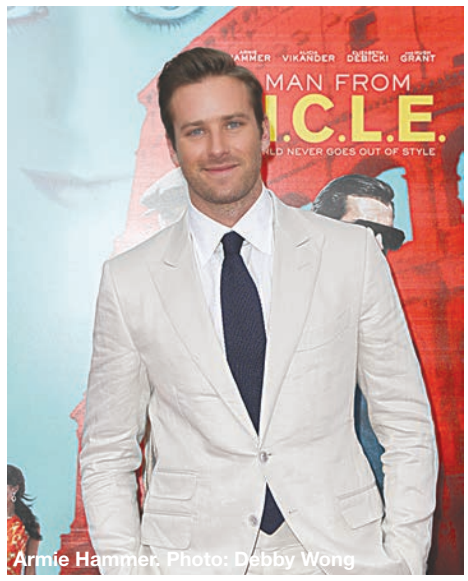
Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Armie Hammer plays gay in 'Call Me By Your Name'

Soon to premiere at this year's Sundance Film Festival, "Call Me By Your Name" has already been picked up for theatrical distribution by Sony Pictures Classics. That's good news for male audiences hungry to solidify that crush on Armie Hammer, as the actor will play a gay academic traveling through Italy. Based on the novel by Andre Aciman, it's the latest from popular arthouse filmmaker Luca Guadagnino ("I Am Love," "A Bigger Splash"). Set in 1983, the story involves Hammer's character, a man in his mid-20s, falling for an 18-year-old played by Timothee Chalamet ("Love The Coopers"), with the usual ensuing complications. Guadagnino co-wrote the adapted screenplay with James Ivory and Walter Fasano, and the film also features new music by Sufjan Stevens. Meanwhile, if you've seen Guadagnino's earlier output, you know the director doesn't flinch from adult situations becoming very explicit. In other words, ignoring the high quality filmmaking angle for just a bit and indulging our more basic instincts, there's going to be a lot of naked dude sex in this movie. Sold yet?



Armie Hammer. Photo: Debby Wong

'Young Justice' already has queer characters?

Sometimes it's more than neo-Nazis and their favorite new president on Twitter. Sometimes it's TV series creators clapping back at anti-gay trolls. We're talking specifically about Greg Weisman, the co-creator of the animated series "Young Justice," who recently tweeted that the show, moving from Cartoon Network to Netflix as we speak, will be revealing the as-yet-unspoken queerness of one or more characters. He did so by way of response to people we assume were hiding behind egg avatars, as they hauled out the tired "What about the children?" argument for the inclusion of LGBT characters in a show aimed at kids. What's odd about this, of course, is that there has been no indication that any of the "YJ" superheroes are even thinking about their sexual orientation or gender identity. But that's the beauty of episodic TV, anything can happen in the next episode, even if it's being done just to rile up the bigots. We'll be keeping a queer eye on this one to see how it all shakes out.

'Six Feet Under'/'True Blood' creator Alan Ball is back at HBO

Alan Ball has written a new show. The man who gave queer viewers "Six Feet Under" and "True Blood" is returning to HBO with a fresh series – that has no name just yet – and there's casting going down right now. Holly Hunter will star (honestly, this news can begin and end here and we'll be devoted followers for good, so deep is our love for Ms. Hunter) as a socially conscious Baby Boomer who, along with an as-yet-uncast husband character, adopted children from Vietnam, Somalia, and Colombia a couple decades ago. Now those kids are grown up and one of them is experiencing hallucinations – visions, if you will. Clearly, these visions are not going to respond to medical intervention or they wouldn't be part of the log line. Let's just assume they're destined to involve consequences for everyone. Daniel Zovatto ("Fear the Walking Dead") plays the young man who sees beyond, and his siblings include Raymond Lee (most recently seen on "Mozart in the Jungle"), Jerrika Hinton ("Grey's Anatomy") and daughter of Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, Sosie Bacon ("Scream"). When this thing has a name we'll be on it.

Cher takes on Flint's poison water

We haven't seen much of Cher in film or on TV lately, but her fiery political activism is a constant for anyone who follows her on social media. Now she's translating that passion into a movie for Lifetime, about the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. In case you've been living in a news blackout, corrupt politicians have allowed Flint's water system to become undrinkable and deadly poisonous, with lead levels at murderous levels, and this situation remains uncorrected since 2014. Now, along with Katie Couric and the gay production team of Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, Cher will co-produce and star in the narrative feature, written by Barbara Stepansky, whose working title is "Flint," about this environmental and human disaster. Just don't expect any "Burlesque"-style song-and-dance moments. It's been even longer since we've seen Cher in something this topically reminiscent of "Silkwood," and it promises to reach for that level of powerful anger.

Romeo San Vicente wants Cher's beat to go on indefinitely.

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